

## British Army base bombing claim by IRA

### Minister tells Commons of warning by phone

By Our Foreign Staff

The huge car bomb that exploded at the headquarters of the British forces in West Germany late on Monday night injuring more than 30 people was almost certainly the work of the Provisional IRA.

In a statement issued from Dublin yesterday, the Provisionals formally claimed responsibility for the blast at the Rheindahlen base, believed to have involved up to 300 lbs of plastic explosive.

"Our unit's brief was to inflict a devastating blow but was ordered to be careful to avoid civilian casualties," said the statement, issued under the signature of P. O'Neill, the usual means used to identify the Provisionals acts of terrorism. "The British Government can save lives by calling off its war in Ireland. We have warned it," the communiqué added.

A conflicting claim to have planted the bomb at Rheindahlen, which also houses two top level Nato commands, was received yesterday from a group calling itself the National Democratic Front for the Liberation of Germany. The West German

Federal Prosecutor, Dr Kurt Rebmann automatically took over investigation of the attack, but last night anti-terrorist specialists indicated that it was more likely to have been carried out by an Provisional active service unit. Quoting "British experts" already on the spot, DPA, the West German news agency, said that the bomb was believed to have been of the type used by the IRA in Northern Ireland.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, confirmed that a man speak-

is cross-crossed by public roads.

Protecting the many "soft" targets offered by the Rhine army from terrorists has always been a headache for security chiefs. Eight bombs which exploded at various bases in West Germany in the summer of 1978 were believed to have been planted by the Provisionals, and IRA operations in 1980 left one British soldier dead and several more injured. Other IRA attacks against the British military presence in Western Europe have taken place in The Netherlands and Belgium.

More recently, there have been growing fears of a concerted "Euro-terrorist" offensive against targets associated with the Nato presence. West German experts have warned that a new generation of Red Army Faction urban guerrillas have singled out the "military-industrial complex".

Security sources in Northern Ireland, where a Provisional car bomb killed three people in Londonderry on the same night as the Rheindahlen attack, are assuming that the IRA statement was issued only after the terrorist team responsible had made their getaway from the area, which is close to the border with The Netherlands.

## Ministers differ on election date

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

There is now considerable discussion among ministers about the most suitable date for Mrs Thatcher to call an election.

Some ministers have switched from favouring October to June as the pressures for an early election have built up.

But as they digested the lessons of the weekend polls showing a steady advance for the SDP/Liberal Alliance, some were switching back again, saying it would be better to wait until the autumn

in the near certainty that by then the unemployment figures would be below three million.

The momentum has built towards a June election without the Conservatives reaching the 42 per cent figure in the opinion polls which Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, is anxious to see. Many senior party figures are convinced that the Government's share of the vote will increase as tax cuts feed through into wage pack-

## Queen greets Saudi ruler at start of state visit



The Queen warmly welcoming King Fahd at Victoria Station, London, yesterday, with a Saudi interpreter between them.

## Delay as police discover 'object'

By Nicholas Beeston

The Saudi Arabian monarch, King Fahd, arrived in London yesterday and was greeted by the Queen and the Prime Minister at the start of a four-day state visit aimed at improving relations with the leader of the Arab world's wealthiest country.

The Saudi ruler was met at Gatwick airport by the Prince and Princess of Wales who escorted him by train for a reception by the Queen, other members of the Royal Household and Mrs Thatcher.

But he was delayed for more than a quarter-of-an-hour when police found an "un-

identified object" under a railway bridge on the approach to Victoria.

The ruler's trip, the first he has made outside the Middle East since 1983, follows the royal visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales to Saudi Arabia in November last year and the completion of a \$5 billion Tornado aircraft deal between the two countries.

King Fahd's agenda is largely taken up with ceremonial duties, and yesterday he met Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at Clarence House before attending a banquet in his honour for 160 people at Buckingham Palace.

During a speech there he thanked the Queen for the warm welcome he had received but called on Britain to take a "more positive role" in finding a solution to the problem of the Palestinian people.

Today he will hold talks with the Prime Minister at Downing Street, where he is expected to bring up the question of the Gulf War, the stalled Middle East peace negotiations and the possibilities of Britain improving ties with Syria.

But diplomatic sources said his visit was not expected to produce any firm initiatives. For its part, Britain, which is competing with several Western countries for a \$1 billion contract to supply submarines to Saudi Arabia, is expected to urge the King to choose the diesel-electric Type 2400 built by Vickers.

King Fahd has agreed to see a deputation of British Muslims during his visit to Britain to discuss complaints about access to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina (Our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes).

## Thatcher to press human rights issue in Moscow

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Prime Minister is to make human rights issues a major focus of her trip to Moscow next weekend.

Mrs Thatcher will be pressing Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, in private for further action on releasing dissidents and allowing Jews to travel to Israel as an earnest sign of his intentions on arms control.

Mrs Thatcher recognises that the Soviet authorities are attempting greater openness and making progress on human rights. In her talks with Mr Gorbachev she will acknowledge these developments.

But although there will be no formal linkage of further progress on human rights with arms control issues, Mrs Thatcher will emphasize the importance Western governments attach to such questions as freedom of worship and freedom of speech.

Whitehall was yesterday underlining her remarks in Bonn this week when she said that the way in which you approach arms negotiations depends on your trust and confidence in the country concerned.

"Whether you can develop that trust and confidence depends on how they treat their own people". In that context it was important how far the Soviet

Union was implementing the Helsinki accords on human rights and freedoms. "The heavier correspondence on a foreign affairs issue since that on South African sanctions."

Mrs Thatcher was said to be unmoved yesterday by two more attacks on her which have appeared in the Soviet Press in advance of her visit, one in *Pravda* and the other in the weekly *New Times*.

The *Pravda* article attacks her over her remarks at the Conservative Central Council in Torquay at the weekend when she noted that while some detainees had been released many more were still in prison in the Soviet Union.

In one of the two articles Mr Tony Benn, the former Labour Minister, was quoted as saying that the Thatcher Government had no case to make on human rights when it curtailed civil liberties in Britain and had its own "political prisoners" from the miners strike.

The other article, in *Pravda*, criticized what it called "democracy, British style". Downing Street was still not ruling out completely last night the prospect of Mrs Thatcher flying on to Washington to brief President Reagan after her talks with Mr Gorbachev, though it remains unlikely.

## Heads 'hit squad' idea for schools

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

A proposal to set up a flying squad of headteachers who would be sent to schools facing severe management or academic difficulties is under consideration by education ministers as part of the measures being prepared for a third Conservative term of office.

The heads, numbering as many as 500 and chosen for their outstanding leadership qualities, would be paid well above current salary levels of between £12,000 and £26,000.

They would be employed by a special commission in regional teams and be drafted into problem schools on a short-term basis of a year or two.

Local education authorities and school governors and inspectors would be able to call for outside help if they felt it was needed.

The proposal stems from the growing belief among ministers, voiced increasingly by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, that the quality of education delivered in the classroom is closely linked to the calibre of the headteacher.

Mr Robert Dunn, Under-Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, is known to be backing the idea.

## INSIDE Research pledge by Labour

The Labour Party pledged that if it won the election it would give a massive boost to research and development in Britain. It promised to create a Minister for Science and Technology and stem the growing "brain drain". Page 2

## IN PART 2

**Dollar plunge**  
The dollar plunged to a post-war low of 148.40 yen before heavy buying by central banks propped it up. Page 23

## Hill moves

Watford signed Richard Hill, Northampton's midfield player, for £235,000. He will join the club at the end of the season. Page 46

## Cottage saved

Fulham Football Club, under threat from property developers, has probably been saved by the Department of the Environment declaring Craven Cottage and the Stevenage Road stand as grade two listed buildings. Page 44

## Portfolio Gold

● The £4,000 prize in yesterday's Times Portfolio Gold competition was shared by two readers. Details, page 3.  
● Portfolio list, page 29.

## INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	7-10
Business	23-30
Sport	41-44
Arts	21
Births, deaths, marriages	17
Church	17
City Diary	25
Court	18
Crème de la Crème	37-41
Crosswords	12-22
Diary	14
Entertainments	12-14
Features	12-14
Information	20
Law Report	41
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Obituary	15
Parliament	4
Property	31-38
Sale room	18
Science	44
Snow Reports	45
TV & Radio	45
Universities	17
Weather	22
Wills	16

## Channon to mediate on advice City battle over new code

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

A row between two City authorities erupted yesterday over how financial products such as life assurance should be sold to the public. The outcome will affect whether people will be able to get a full range of financial advice from their local bank or building society, or will have to go instead to specialist advisers.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will have to rule within about the next three weeks, forcing him to make an awkward choice between two bodies sponsored by his department.

Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, condemned as "significantly anti-competitive" the Securities and Investments Board's draft rules for the strict "pol-

arization" of life assurance salesmen. Polarization means the rigid separation between those who advise on and sell life insurance policies of one particular company, and independent

brokers who can sell products from many companies.

Under the SIB scheme, banks and building societies would be forced to choose between providing their own products, or advising on and selling a range of schemes by other firms such as life assurance companies.

The fight for dominance in the £15 billion-a-year life assurance market has put the banks and building societies in sharp conflict with most of the life assurance industry, which backs the SIB proposal.

Sir Gordon advocates a system of greater disclosure of commissions by salesmen, to show customers how much salesmen stand to gain from selling a particular policy.

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## Softer guidelines on benefits fraud

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Softer prison sentences for social security fraud, with a maximum term of nine to 12 months, were recommended by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, in new Crown Court guidelines yesterday.

However, Lord Lane warned that the softer sentencing should not apply to those who "made a business" out of robbing the public purse.

Judges should also give more consideration to imposing community service orders and, if there had to be imprisonment, in making sentences as short as possible.

The element of deterrence should not play a big part, he said. The unusual call by the Lord Chief Justice for shorter prison sentences came during an appeal by five men and a woman, who were all sen-

tenced to a minimum of 12 months in jail for defrauding the Department of Health and Social Security by failing to disclose their financial means.

Ms Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "This is a step in the direction, although a very small, slow one. Crimes of poverty should not attract a prison sentence at all; it is totally inappropriate. It is crimes of violence we should be concentrating on."

Sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Farquharson and Mr Justice Gagehouse, Lord Lane ordered sentence reductions or release from prison for the six offenders. He suggested that sentences of nine to 12 months should be the top limit in such cases.

Continued on page 22, col 6

## 'Rich and poor' report provokes health row

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A Health Education Council report accusing the Government of allowing the health gap between rich and poor to widen was at the centre of an extraordinary row yesterday.

The report is the final salvo from Dr David Player, director general of the council, before it is abolished next week and replaced by a new government-appointed Health Education Authority.

But in what was described by council staff as a "bizarre series of events" yesterday, the Dr Player was ordered to cancel a press conference on the report. Arriving journalists and a panel of experts invited to discuss it were told they had to leave the council's London headquarters.

The order came from Sir Brian Bailey, the HEC chairman, who has also been named as chairman of the new authority, 45 minutes before the conference was due to begin.

Supporters of Dr Player within the HEC later claimed the events were "clearly designed to suppress this important report".

Dr Player has frequently criticized the Government on a range of health issues, such as smoking and alcohol. Although he has applied for the post of director-general of the authority, none of his colleagues believe he will be given the job.

The report, commissioned by Dr Player and prepared by an independent researcher, says the Government has allowed the health gap between rich and poor to widen in the past

seven years. The Government should act to prevent thousands of deaths a year among poorer people, it says.

The lives of up to 20,000 people a year could be saved by the end of the century if the Government took initiatives urged by the World Health Organization, according to the report.

Similar recommendations from British specialists, in a report by Sir Douglas Black, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, were rejected by the Government in 1980 as "too expensive", it states.

The new report, *The Health Divide*, updates the Black report and says that new evidence "confirms that serious social inequalities in health have persisted into the 1980s". The gap was "inexcusable in a

democratic society which prides itself on being humane", Dr David Player said in an embargoed press release before the planned press conference.

The report says those at the bottom of the social scale have much higher death rates than those at the top, at every stage of life from birth to old age.

All the major killer diseases now affect the poor more than the rich. The unemployed have considerably worse physical and mental health than those in work, and the health of working class women is particularly poor.

Death rates between 1979 and 1983 were highest in Scotland, followed by the north of England, and lowest in

Continued on page 22, col 7

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Scargill vicious, say Welsh NUM

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, was accused yesterday by the president of the union's Welsh area of "irresponsible and vicious" statements in the row over six-day working at the new Margam pit.

In the *South Wales Miner* newspaper, Mr Des Duffield condemned Mr Scargill for his "terrible slur" that the Welsh miners had "collaborated" with British Coal in agreeing to local talks to change the five-day week.

Mr Duffield said his area leadership had been astounded by Mr Scargill's remarks because South Wales was the union's most loyal area during the year-long pit strike. He said the area took a responsible decision to hold talks on six-day working at the £90 million Margam pit, which will create 800 mining jobs.

"We must not have a situation where a blind eye is turned to certain practices in some areas while other areas are condemned out of hand", Mr Duffield said.

## Escape for head

A headmaster who gave evidence against Miss Margaret McGoldrick, the north London infant school head who fought against Brest council accusations of racism, is to escape punishment by his union.

Mr Richard Sachse, head of a neighbouring junior school, was found guilty of professional misconduct by a National Union of Teachers disciplinary court last week. But the NUT is to take no action because of confusion over whether he should have given Miss McGoldrick a copy of a document.

## Safer ferries

International agreement is being sought by the Government on the height above the waterline at which lifeboats can be located on ferries and other passenger ships.

The Department of Transport is proposing that, on newly-built ships, life-saving equipment should not be more than 13 metres above the surface. It is understood that the safety equipment on the ferry *Herald of Free Enterprise* was within the proposed limit, but the speed of the capsizing at Zeebrugge rendered it useless.

## No change on Ulster

Mr Charles Haughey, the prime minister of the Irish Republic, yesterday admitted he would be unable to renegotiate a crucial part of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

In spite of his personal reservation about Article 1, which affirms that any change in the status of Northern Ireland could come about only with the consent of the majority of its people, it was part of a binding international agreement which he would honour, he told the first meeting of the new parliament.

Article 1 recognises that the present wish of the majority is for no change in the province's status, but Mr Haughey believes that conflicts with the constitution of the republic, which claims jurisdiction over all parts of the island.

## Secret report

A police report which rules out any secret Service involvement in the death of Miss Hilda Murrell, an anti-nuclear campaigner, is to remain confidential, Mr Tony Mallett, Chief Constable of West Mercia, said yesterday.

He told a police committee meeting that an investigation by Mr Peter Smith, assistant chief constable of Northumbria, into Miss Murrell's death in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, three years ago was part of an on-going inquiry.

Miss Murrell, aged 79, a rose grower, was stabbed and left to die of hypothermia.

## Jeanette plea lodged

The Official Solicitor lodged a petition yesterday seeking a House of Lords ruling on the Court of Appeal decision that a mentally retarded girl of 17 should be sterilized to save her from pregnancy.

The appeal committee of Law Lords, who decide whether to grant a full hearing of the case, is not due to sit until late next week. However, the case may be considered before then because the girl, known as Jeanette, is 18 on May 20, after which her consent would be needed.



## 'Excessive force used on hippies'

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Wiltshire's chief constable, Mr Donald Smith, admitted yesterday "there were organizational lessons to be learnt" after the Police Complaints Authority said some police officers had used excessive force in efforts to disperse the so-called hippy "peace convoy" in 1985.

Those who did could not be identified among the 1,363 officers involved, so no disciplinary proceedings could take place.

The authority's report covered violent scenes between members of the convoy and the police, which led to 537 arrests. The officers came from seven different forces.

The report says: "The failure of the police to turn people back well before the Stonehenge site resulted in the peace convoy and other people being concentrated in two fields."

"Senior police officers at the scene had to make a decision on the spot as to how to deal with this unanticipated situation. The eventual decision to arrest everyone in the two fields posed significant administrative problems."

Mr Smith said the criticisms of police action were mainly associated with the problems of dealing with a considerable number of prisoners at one time. There were organizational lessons to be learnt.

"However, I shall always remain exceptionally proud of the way in which the vast majority of the Wiltshire Constabulary and the officers who assisted them acquitted themselves on that day when confronted by a determined group of people whose use of violence knew no bounds."

Mr Tim Green, a solicitor representing many of the hippies, said he was not impressed by the way the complaints authority had carried out its investigation and would be advising clients to consider civil proceedings against Wiltshire police.

He called for outstanding criminal charges, due to be heard by Salisbury magistrates on April 6, to be dropped.

He thought the complaints about police behaviour had now been vindicated.

Describing how the conflict occurred, the report says that because of police roadblocks, the convoy on its way towards Stonehenge turned into a field about six miles away, instead of dispersing.

Police securing the perimeter of the field faced a hail of missiles and petrol bombs. Police feared, there would again be an attempt to reach Stonehenge and entered the field to arrest everyone there. Some were in riot gear and many with truncheons drawn.

There were many instances of vehicles being driven directly at policemen and missiles being thrown at them. During several minutes of violent confrontation officers used truncheons to break vehicle windows to try to stop them and, in some cases, to save themselves from being run over.



Eight paratroopers, six of them Falklands veterans, preparing to march and run 1,200 miles from Inverness to Aldershot in 10 days, starting on April 16. The men will carry 35lb packs for two hours at a time, aiming to cover up to 120 miles per day through 85 towns. They are raising money for the NSPCC and the British Heart Foundation. (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

## Parents in new plea over cash for schools

By John Clare  
Education Correspondent

Parents and teachers' leaders joined forces at a rally in London yesterday to demand more money for schools.

Their appeal came as thousands of teachers in England and Wales renewed their campaign of half-day strikes.

However, all the speakers at the rally, which included parents' representatives as well as the leaders of the six teaching unions, avoided the issue that must have been uppermost in all their minds.

Instead, they concentrated on crumbling school buildings, the shortage of textbooks and teachers' declining morale.

The tone was set by Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Alliance spokesman on education, who said schools were in a major crisis and gave a list of depressing statistics.

Since 1980, he said, nearly 1,800 schools had closed and two-thirds of those remaining needed urgent repairs. Some 5,000 teachers had left the profession for better-paid jobs and 100,000 children regularly played truant.

He also said that 12 million lessons had been lost through teachers' strikes and other disruptive action.

But the point was quickly dismissed both by Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers and by Mr Nigel de Gruchy, of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

Mr Jarvis asserted that far more lessons were lost through local authorities failing to provide adequate cover for absent teachers, while Mr de Gruchy said that the 5,000 secondary schools in England and Wales were short of 1,000 physics teachers.

Mr Alastair Burt, Conservative MP for Bury North and the parliamentary private secretary to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, responded that more was being spent per pupil in real terms than ever before and that the ratio of pupils to teachers was lower than it had ever been.

## Research and development

## Labour in pledge on science

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

A drive to increase research and development and so boost industry and prevent the accelerating "brain drain" from Britain was promised by the Labour Party yesterday as Mrs Margaret Thatcher defended her Government's spending on science.

The pledge to strengthen Britain's research-intensive industries, made at the launch of Labour's policy document on industry, came as it was disclosed that Professor Colin Blakemore, Oxford University's youngest yet professor of physiology, is thinking of taking his research team to work in the United States.

The Labour statement highlights how, among the five leading industrial nations, Britain now devotes the small-

est share of its gross domestic product to civil research and development.

A new Minister for Science and Technology would be appointed under a Labour government and a new Council for Science and Technology would be "charged with assessing the whole of scientific and technological endeavour."

Companies would also be placed under a statutory duty to declare how much they spend each year on research. Mrs Thatcher yesterday wrote to Mr Neil Kinnock to insist her administration recognized the importance of scientific research and wanted to improve the quality of the science base. "Indeed we are spending well over £1 billion

every year to do this."

She added: "The Government has increased the science budget every year since 1979. In 1987-88 there will be a further increase of some £40 million cash—6.5 per cent."

The Labour policy document, *New Industrial Strength for Britain*, confirms how a strengthened Department of Trade and Industry would spearhead a national industrial strategy.

A British Investment Bank would be set up to provide finance for industry at favourable terms while British Enterprise would be established to promote and have a financial stake in innovation, research and development.

Leading article and Letters, page 15

## Bank goes on attack over raid

By Richard Thomson  
Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England yesterday rejected the charge by Sir Kenneth Newman that it had been aware of an extra demand for cash when the Brink's Mat gold bullion robbers were realizing the proceeds of their theft.

In a rare public statement, the Bank said it was untrue that it had printed extra £50 notes around the time of the robbery to cope with unusual demand and denied that it had notified the Treasury, but had done nothing to find out what was going on.

It said that there had been no extra withdrawal of £50 notes from its Bristol branch during the period in question as Sir Kenneth, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, had claimed on Monday.

Officials were puzzled about where Sir Kenneth got his information on the Bank's activities.

They said that information on the number of banknotes printed and circulated was not publicly available and the police had not asked for it.

They said the £25 million involved in the robbery would probably not have been enough to show up as an unusual fluctuation in the demand on banknotes.

Berclays Bank would say nothing about Sir Kenneth's accusation that it had made no attempt to inquire into the £13 million withdrawal from its branches in £50 notes over a short period.

## 'Thought scanner' draws nearer

By Robert Matthews

Scientists at Cambridge University have put Britain ahead of the rest of Europe in the new "superconductor" technology, by making an electronic device out of ceramic compounds which could form the basis of a new generation of ultra-fast computers.

The development could lead to widespread use of a medical scanning technique which would make it possible to watch how thoughts were generated inside the brain and observe them pass into muscles. So far that has been investigated in only a handful of research laboratories.

A team under Dr Ian Evetts, head of superconductivity research at the university's department of material science, has succeeded in putting thin films of the material on layers of sapphire to make devices which, when cooled to liquid nitrogen temperatures, become perfect electricity conductors.

Such devices could be used as connectors in computers able to run faster than any now available. According to Dr Evetts, the Cambridge team is investigating a wide range of possible applications "to make sure that British industry can exploit the new materials."

His group is looking at ways of turning the thin films into so-called Josephson junctions. The medical implications have attracted the interest of Oxford Instruments, the world's largest manufacturer of superconducting magnets. Those are chiefly used in nuclear magnetic resonance scanners, employed in some hospitals to give detailed pictures of patients' organs.

Mr Peter Williams, the company's chief executive, said that the new ceramic materials could open the way to cheaper scanners, bringing them within the reach of more hospitals.

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SEALINK HOLIDAYS

## Teenage girl raped in Tube kidnap ordeal

A teenage girl was repeatedly raped during a 29-hour ordeal after being kidnapped outside Victoria Underground station, central London.

The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that the girl was kidnapped on Friday by two men who covered her eyes and mouth as they bundled her into a car outside the main entrance to the station.

The girl, aged 16, who had arrived in London from Sussex for a weekend visit, was kept blindfolded in the car as the men took it in turns to rape her.

Her disappearance was not noticed until 10pm on Saturday when she walked into Baker Street Underground station, north London.

The police said that the girl could not describe her attackers because she was could not see and no words were spoken. They appealed for witnesses.

The girl is 5ft 4in tall, with short, straight, blondish hair. She was wearing a blue and black dress, black jumper and white bomber jacket, and carrying a barrel-shaped, purple overnight bag with pink straps, which is missing.

## 1,000 cancers likely in EEC

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

More than 1,000 extra cancers will be caused in the 12 European Community countries because of radiation from the fall-out created by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in the Soviet Union last year.

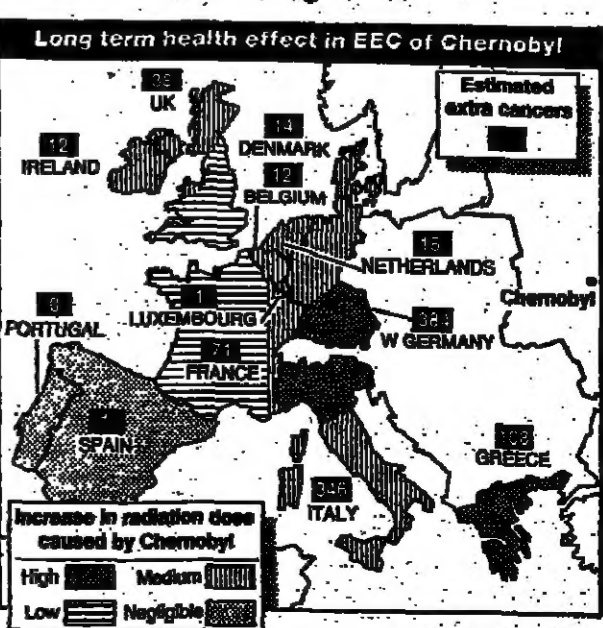
The estimates were made for a report on the long-term health effects of the contamination, prepared for the European Commission by the National Radiological Protection Board, at Harwell, Oxfordshire.

The study, which was published yesterday, showed that West Germany, Italy and Greece were the most severely affected, with much lower exposures in France and the United Kingdom.

The investigation assessed the counter-measures in the regions where rain deposited the highest levels of radioactive iodine and caesium. A ban on milk and fresh vegetables imposed in some areas of West Germany, Italy and Greece has been lifted. Restrictions adopted for sheep meat in Britain are still in

## After Chernobyl

## Long term health effect in EEC of Chernobyl



force. That halved the doses of radiation from fall-out to groups at most risk. The calculations detailed the average dose received by the adult population in each country. It also detailed exposure among smaller groups. Since radioactive iodine had a short active life, the long

contamination would come from caesium. In the long term, the estimates showed an exposure to average individuals in European Community countries ranging from 0.3 microsieverts in Portugal to 500 in West Germany, compared with 1,000 to 2,000 microsieverts found naturally.

## Shots fired at IRA funeral

Masked men fired shots over the coffin of a dead terrorist in the grounds of an Ulster church yesterday.

Two men emerged from the porch of St Columba's Roman Catholic church, in the Bogside, Londonderry, and fired a volley of shots over the flag-draped coffin as mourners crowded around.

The Provisional IRA's action infuriated the Roman Catholic church which accused them of a "flagrant violation of the sacred character of church grounds".

Hoax telephone calls and abandoned vehicles brought traffic chaos in a city already tense in anticipation of the Provisional IRA volunteer's funeral and after the attacks which killed two RUC detectives and a civilian instructor at a prison.

The hoaxes were intended to stretch to the limit the security forces who were attempting to prevent the paramilitary display at the funeral of Gerald Logue, aged 26, accidentally killed at the weekend.

It also hindered the hunt for terrorists who shot dead the instructor and used his death to lure the RUC into a bomb trap in the grounds of Magee University College late on Monday night.

The terrorists killed Mr Leslie Jarvis, aged 62, from Londonderry, a prison instructor based at Magilligan jail, as he sat in his car.

Twenty minutes later students heard a loud explosion as two police officers opened the door of a vehicle to remove the man's body. A bomb exploded and ignited in a hail of flames Detective Inspector Austin Wilson, aged 35, from Limavady, Co Londonderry, and Detective Sergeant John Bennison, aged 41, from Londonderry.

Mr Wilson was married with two children aged six and eight. His colleague was married with a teenage daughter.

Condemnation of the killings came from politicians on both sides of the sectarian divide and border. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "The IRA have reached a new low in their onslaught on society."

## Karpov is close to a challenge

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

Anatoly Karpov, the former world chess champion, has moved within one point of a renewed challenge to the world champion, Gary Kasparov, later this year.

In the adjourned tenth game of his world title eliminator against Andrei Sokolov in Linares, Spain, Karpov brilliantly sacrificed a knight on the fifty-eighth move to force the triumphant advance of his queen's side pawns.

Sokolov's remaining bishop was impotent to prevent the promotion of one white pawn to a queen and the young Soviet grand master conceded defeat on move 63.

Karpov now leads by 6½ points to 3½ and requires one more point to secure ultimate victory.

Sokolov called a rest day yesterday. The eleventh game will be played tomorrow.

Meanwhile in Indonesia controversy has broken out over the staging of a Far Eastern leg of the world championship qualifying competition.

As a result of allegations of cheating the world championship zonal tournament has been cancelled and is due for rescheduling later this year.

But Professor Lim Kok Ann, secretary general of the World Chess Federation, said that the federation president, Florencio Campomanes, might overturn this decision and insist that all results stand.

White: Karpov	Black				
1-04	N6	33	N3	R2	
2-04	a6	34	a4	R2	
3-N3	b6	35	N4	B7	
4-B6	B6	36	B5	a6	
5-B3	B4 ch	37	K3	B5	
6-B2	B7	38	N2	d4	
7-Nc3	B-0	39	N4	Kd7	
8-a4	c5	40	a5 ch	Kd8	
9-a5	Bd1	41	Ka4	a5	
10-Kf1	exd5	42	R3	Rf1	
11-B5	Nd4	43	N5	Rf1	
12-Qd2	Nc3	44	K3	Rf1	
13-Bxc3	Qd7	45	R6	B6	
14-Kg2	Nc6	46	N6	B6	
15-Rf1	N5	47	B7	Rg7	
16-Ng1	c5	48	N4	Bd4	
17-a4	cxd4	49	exd7	chd7	
18-Bxd4	Q15	50	Rd7	Kd7	
19-Rf1	Bd4	51	N5 ch	Kd8	
20-Rf1	N6	52	N6	Bd1	
21-Qc3	Ra3	53	N4	Bd4	
22-Rc3	Ra2	54	N5	Bd1	
23-N3	Rc2 ch	55	K3	Bd1	
24-R2	Rd2	56	Kd4	K5	
25-a5	Nxd4	57	N4	Bd5	
26-Nxd4	Rd2 ch	58	N5	Bd5	
27-Kd2	Rc1	59	B4	Bd8	
28-B3	K18	60	a5	Kd5	
29-Kg1	Rf1 ch	61	K5	B5	
30-Kd4	B1	62	a6	B5	
31-N4	b6	63	B5	B5	
32-B4	Kd8	64	B5	B5	



Diplomat wins divorce

# Sewage threat to consul by an 'embarrassing' wife

A diplomat's wife threatened to pour sewage over a consul general's dining table.

She fell out with the wives of her husband's superiors. And after her husband and she had been living apart and he had asked for a divorce, she went to Athens where he was consul and attacked his mistress in a cinema.

The diplomat, Mr Ivo Towner, aged 53, who still lives in Athens, could no longer be expected to put up with the behaviour of his wife, Jessie, Judge Towner ruled in the High Court Family Division in London yesterday.

Mr Towner was granted a decree nisi to end his 32-year marriage to his wife, aged 57, who still lives at the former

matrimonial home in London Road, Maidstone, Kent.

The judge said it was a sad case involving a husband who kept things "buttoned up", and a wife who had "formidable strength of will".

The judge said that the behaviour of Mrs Towner, who from time to time would "scream and shout" at her husband, caused problems.

When she unhappy with the sewerage system at their home in Istanbul, she told the consul general's wife she would "pour a pile of sewage" over his dining table if something was not done.

"That sort of behaviour is extremely damaging to a husband in the sensitive area of the Foreign Office and the

wife knew it well", the judge said.

When she fell out with the wives of her husband's superiors, she made it clear she had fallen out with them, he said.

In 1982, Mr Towner was posted to Athens and went there on his own. By 1984 he had befriended a woman called Maria, aged 34, who worked for the British Government in Athens. He was now living with her and wanted to marry her.

Mr Towner wrote to his wife offering her a divorce on the ground of his admitted adultery. But in June 1985 Mrs Towner turned up at his Athens home in the middle of the night.

"I think she went out there to stir it up a bit", the judge

said. She complained to Mr Towner's office, his department and his colleagues and referred to Maria as "that wicked woman".

The couple were "totally incompatible" and found difficulty communicating with each other. The heart of the problem was a rift over how one of their grown-up daughters, with a mental age of two, should be brought up.

Mrs Towner wanted her daughter raised as normally as possible, but Mr Towner believed she should be put into an institution. The judge said that, in the end, the girl stayed at home, cared for by her mother.

Mrs Towner's cross-petition for a judicial separation was dismissed.

Teenage soldiers

# 'Sadistic' bullying alleged by MP

By Craig Seton

A young army recruit was subjected to bullying "verging on the sadistic" during an initiation ceremony conducted by NCOs, Mr John Taylor, Conservative MP for Solihull, claimed yesterday.

He said the unidentified soldier had been hit with a bat during an initiation ceremony known as "the toothpaste tube" and cut with a knife, but senior officers had not intervened and had almost "walked on the other side".

Mr Taylor's allegations about the young soldier, who is from his constituency, came as Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Defence,

revealed that 21 per cent of 16 and 17 year old soldiers obtained a discharge from the army during the first six months of their service between April 1985 and April 1986. The figure for 18 year olds was 15 per cent.

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Defence, has already called for a report to explain why 40 young soldiers were ordered to parade naked, wearing only their belts and carrying mess tins, by a corporal at the Royal Corps of Transport Junior Leaders Regiment at Colerne Barracks, near Bath.

In the latest allegation Mr Taylor has written to Mr

George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, asking for an investigation into the treatment of his constituent, who has been in the army for just over a year and is now seeking an early discharge.

Mr Taylor refused to name the young soldier or identify his regiment but said he had been subjected to initiation "torments" which involved fairly heavy physical violence.

He said the recruit had been tormented with a knife and had been cut on more than one occasion.

The initiation ceremony, nicknamed "the toothpaste tube" by young soldiers, in-

volved his constituent lying on his bed as an NCO slammed down a rod or bar close to his feet.

He said: "As far as I can tell, the punishment was handed out by NCOs while commissioned officers were strangely inert and not intervening. I am asking Mr Younger to investigate claims and if he finds them to be substantiated, to take disciplinary action."

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, yesterday demanded an investigation into the "alarming" rate of early discharges of teenage soldiers.



## Portfolio Gold

### Holiday of a lifetime for winner

Two readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mr Clifford Smith, aged 65, a lecturer at the South Glamorgan Institute, said he would be spending the money on a holiday of a lifetime in Australia.

"I am always surprised if I win anything, but this was a particularly gratifying win", Mr Smith, of Rhwylina, South Glamorgan, said.

Mrs Muriel Hobbs, aged 63, of Saffron Walden, Essex, said she could not believe her success because it was the first time she had won a competition in her life.

Mrs Hobbs, who breeds Californian cats, said she would be spending the money on more cats.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold  
The Times  
PO Box 40  
Blackburn  
BB1 6AJ

## New evidence on murder of boy

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Evidence suggesting that four men were wrongly convicted of murdering newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater in 1978 will be shown in a Thames Television programme tonight.

MPs were shown a preview yesterday, and an early day motion asking the Home Secretary to review the convictions is expected to be filed tomorrow.

The programme, *Murder at the Farm*, claims that the

shotgun killing in rural Staffordshire may have been committed by an ambulance man who was later convicted of killing a farmer.

The case against that man rests partly on a handwriting expert, Mr Derek Davis, who says on the programme that he could positively identify him as the writer of a message which was handed to police a month after the killing.

The programme claims that the message was designed to

take suspicion away from the ambulance man and concentrate inquiries on the four men who were convicted.

One of the convicted men has died in prison; the others are still in custody. The programme stops short of declaring them innocent, but says the procedures used to gather evidence against them were questionable, and that a review of the case by the Court of Appeal contained errors of fact.

## Pregnancy Aids test scheme

By Thomson Practice  
Science Correspondent

Government health advisers are to investigate whether voluntary Aids tests for expectant mothers will help to check the spread of the disease.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has discussed the possibility of such a screening system with medical officials, and has indicated that it might be introduced.

However, he has not been convinced that testing pregnant women for traces of Aids infection will be of great help in seeking a national picture of the epidemic.

Only 19 women are among the 731 Aids cases so far recorded in Britain.

The system of Aids checks on pregnancy, which is favoured by some specialists, is to be considered by a working party set up by Mr Fowler on Monday.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that the tests could be important to individual women anxious about their health.

But expectant mothers were not actually being encouraged to take the test, a spokesman said.

Mr Fowler will open a conference in London today on the non-hospital care of Aids sufferers.

Representatives of voluntary organizations, churches, local authorities and the National Health Service have been invited to participate in the discussions.

Among the speakers will be Dr George Rutherford, medical director of the Aids section of the San Francisco Public Health Department.

Mr Fowler visited San Francisco last January to see the city's home-care system for Aids patients.

Leading article, page 15

## Teachers told off for bad homework

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Many schools are failing to exploit the potential of homework for stimulating initiative in children, according to a report by schools inspectors published yesterday.

After studying homework in more than 250 schools, including several independent ones, Her Majesty's Inspectorate has come to the conclusion it is good for children and parents.

But the inspectors criticize teachers "who tell pupils to write out extracts from text books, or complete one-word answers on a worksheet."

Teachers should not avoid setting home research because they think some children without reference books at home might be disadvantaged, the report says.

They also criticize the fixing of set times for homework. Those should be linked more to ability, they say, and pupils should take as long as they need.

Average homework times

range from one hour a night for first year secondary pupils to two hours for fifth-formers.

Sixth-formers are spending 15 hours a week on homework, the inspectors found, though they admit that there is a "gap between intention and reality".

Seven per cent of pupils admitted never doing homework, and many said they spent less time than the teacher recommended.

The desire of parents to take a constructive interest in their children's work is far more widespread than schools generally acknowledge.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, introducing the report in the Commons, said that every education authority and school should have a homework policy and should tell parents clearly what is expected of them.

*Education Observed 4: Homework* (Publications Dispatch Centre, DES, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, HA7 1AZ; free).

## Restrict mortgage tax relief say councils

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Mortgage tax relief should be pegged at its present level of £30,000 and restricted to the basic rate of income tax, the Association of District Councils says in a report on future housing policy published yesterday.

The association, which represents more than 300 councils in England and Wales, also calls for higher rent levels, with increased government help for those in housing need.

Conservative controlled, it has produced a report with all-party agreement. Mr Roy Thomason, chairman of the

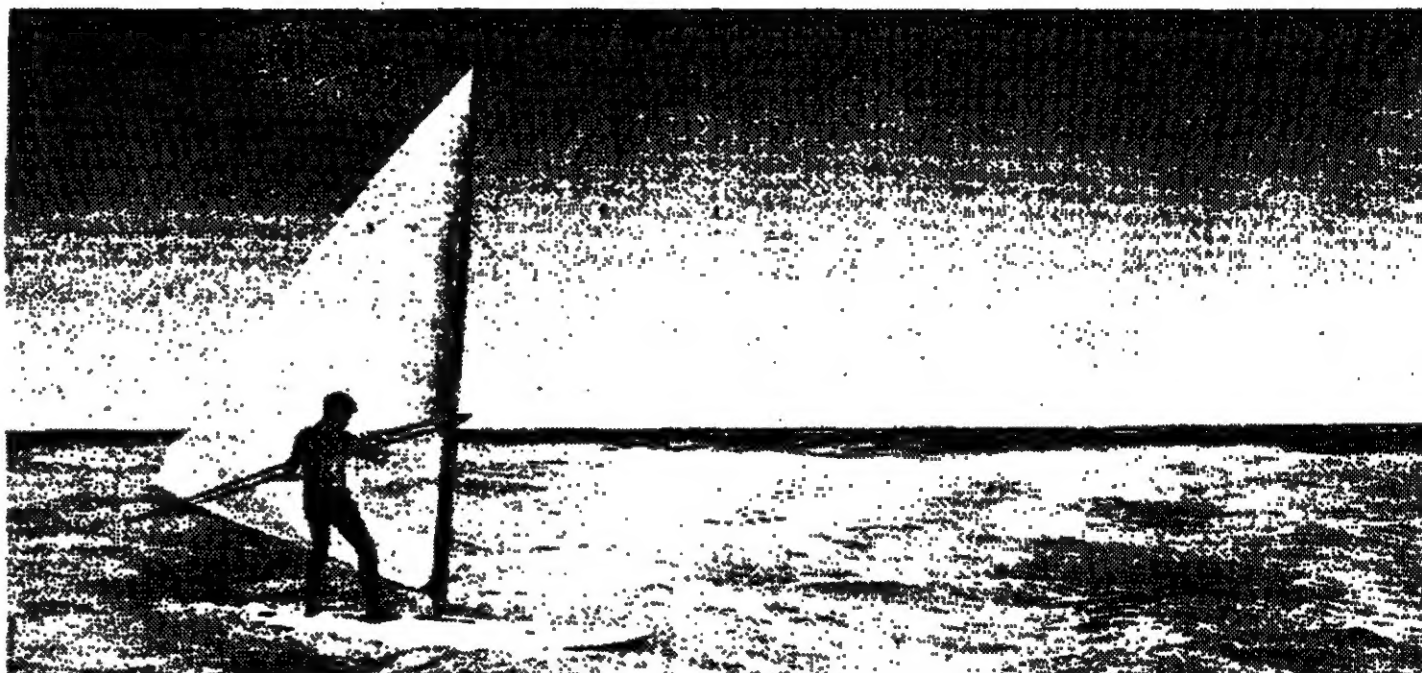
housing committee, said: "At a time when housing problems have become a political football we have drawn up an agreement between parties."

"We have demonstrated, almost for the first time, that it is possible for the Conservatives and Labour parties to sit down and produce a document to which all can subscribe."

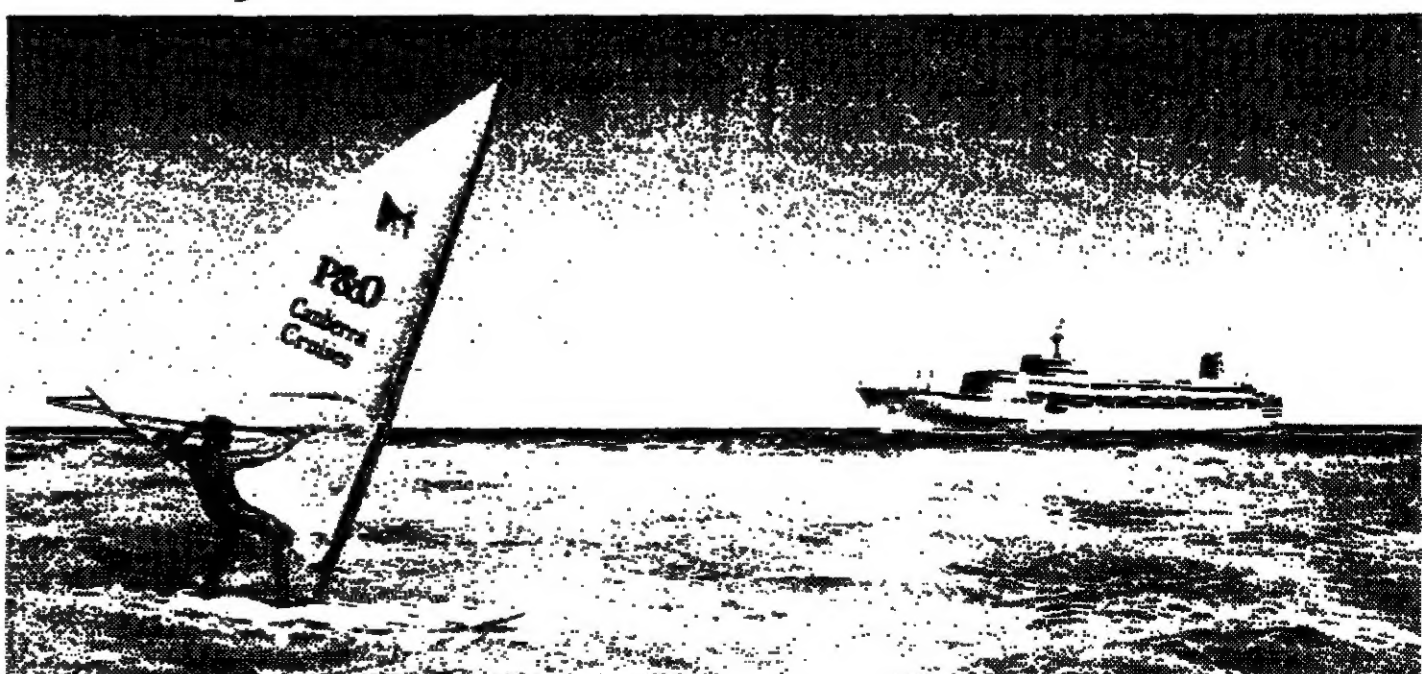
The report calls for more government resources for housing.

The association wants to restrict mortgage tax relief because it benefits higher rate tax payers disproportionately.

## "We used to go to Club Med."



## "This year, we tried the whole Med."



"We've gone to Club Med for years. But this year, we wanted a change. It still had to be a holiday with excellent facilities for kids and lots to do.

So we opted for a Canberra fly cruise (when I say opted, I mean my wife nagged me into it). It's got to be the best surprise of my life. Expecting a non-stop round of inescapable activity, I found you could take it or leave it. When I left it, Jean took it—art classes, dancing classes, bridge tournaments, the lot. We'd meet up for lunch by the pool, and

in the evenings we'd take in a show or a film, and then dance until we dropped in the night-club. Oh yes—and on the way we stopped off in Gibraltar, Sicily and Greece. Time for local seafood, snorkelling and windsurfing (which they'd conveniently taught us en route).

Topped the whole holiday off with a couple of nights in Athens, then flew home feeling like we'd packed a month of holiday into ten days. Next year, it's definitely Club Canberra for us!" Chris and Jean Price.

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THE FIRST RESORT

## Girl was 'crushed to death'

By Ian Smith

Robert Healey trembled violently and sat with hands covering his ears yesterday as a court was told how it may have taken five agonizing minutes for his step-daughter to die.

Dr Donald Wayte, a pathologist, said at Liverpool Crown Court that the injuries to Marie Walker, aged 13—massive amounts of blood in her brain and blood coming from her nose and protruding eyes—were similar to the injuries he had seen on road accident victims crushed to death.

Under cross-examination he said that the attack on her mother, Mrs Gretha Healey, whose head was battered, indicated a frenzied attack. The victim may have lost consciousness after the first

three or four of more than 15 blows.

Mr Healey, aged 38, a driving instructor, denies two charges of murder.

Earlier the court had been told that an elderly country walker had found the graves of Mrs Healey and her daughter.

Mr William Douglas, aged 72, kicked aside dirt and leaves with his foot and exposed a hand protruding from the soil.

The hand belonged to Marie buried face upwards under 12 inches of soil in the wood at Caerwys, North Wales. Lying next to her was her mother, aged 40, an auxiliary nurse.

It is alleged that Mr Healey acted out a macabre charade to hide the killings and then faked his own death, in the manner of the television character Reginald Perrin,

leaving his sodden clothes in a discarded pile on Prestatyn Beach.

Yesterday Mr Healey's sister, Mrs Gail Coxon, told the jury that she visited his home in Longmead Avenue, Hazel Grove, Greater Manchester, on July 29 last year, after a worried telephone call from her mother.

She searched the house and under a recently laid strip of bedroom carpet found bloodstains which somebody had unsuccessfully tried to scrub away.

Cross-examined by Mr John Huggill, QC, for the defence, Mrs Coxon said she had tried to dissuade her brother from marrying before his wedding to Gretha in November 1985. She felt the couple were not suited.



March 24 1987

PARLIAMENT

Recovery sturdy, Thatcher says

PRIME MINISTER

The latest CBI forecast on industrial trends and prospects for industry was welcomed during question time exchanges by the Prime Minister. She insisted that the economic recovery was a sturdy one.

The exchanges began when Mr Thomas Sackville (Bolton West, C) said that the announcement by the CBI of record order books and industrial profits provided further evidence that only through this Government's economic policies could they look forward to further economic growth and a return to full employment.

Mrs Thatcher: The CBI forecast is excellent. It shows healthy investment, consumption, manufacturing output and total output.

It shows that Government policies are working extremely well not only to create new jobs, but at last to get down the number on the unemployment register.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said that yesterday the Chancellor had said that rising manufacturing trade deficit of £3 billion this year was neither here nor there.

In her period in office, manufacturing exports had gone up 15 per cent and manufacturing imports by 48 per cent. Did she think that an £8 billion manufacturing trade deficit was neither here nor there?

Mrs Thatcher: What matters is the overall performance of the economy.

Mr Kinnock: None of which escapes the fact that the forecast of a balance of payments deficit is £2 billion this year despite the fact that she has got a 25 per cent disposal of very large oil revenues and savings on oil imports.

Even on the basis of the fortunate recovery forecast by the CBI, manufacturing imports are still expected to go up 25 per cent faster than manufacturing exports. How sturdy does she think this recovery is?

Mrs Thatcher: The recovery is very sturdy. That is his problem and he knows it. (Conservative cheers).

Mr Kinnock: Given her responsibility for putting unemployment up by two million and given the fact that we are on record as finding that much harder than the does, given the outlook in manufacturing trade performance, how sturdy does she think this recovery is?

Mrs Thatcher: It is very sturdy. It is difficult to understand why he considers that those who work in the oil industry, those who work in the coal industry, those who work in the construction industry, in the great service industries which make an enormous contribution to the balance of payments in this country, should not have the right to import goods. It is absolutely crazy.

Mr Tim Briston (Gravesend, C): We are agreed that there is to get more and enduring employment is through a prudent climate-setting by the Government and by prudent spending. The recent CBI report with the report that the Government has saved £75 million on prescription charges is a good example of exactly where we should go.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. The Government's task is to provide a sound financial background against which enterprise can flourish. That is how to get the growth which has produced the situation of the recent CBI forecast.

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and Industry. Motions on rate-support grant orders for England and for Wales.  
Lords (2.30): Debate on relations between the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union.

**Consultant apologizes to House**  
By Martin Fletcher  
A hospital consultant apologized "unreservedly" to MPs last night for his failure to reply to repeated requests from a dead man's daughter for details of her father's illness.

The patient had been admitted to Crawley hospital in Sussex for what his family believed was an arthritic knee. Three days later he was dead, the hospital having failed to alert his family to the sharp deterioration in his condition.

Minister to see 'brutality' delegation

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said he would be meeting an all-party delegation of MPs to discuss new evidence of brutality against Servicemen which Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab) said was in the possession of MPs from both sides of the House.

Mr Freeman said that he and the Secretary of State for Defence, George Younger, would be happy to meet any delegation that Mr Ashley wished to bring.

Mr Ashley, during Commons questions, said brutality in the Armed Forces was an aspect of negligence, and officers were being negligent.

Mr Freeman told him that defence ministers had made plain that bullying and any mistreatment of soldiers was not, and never had been, tolerable in the British Armed Forces.

Mr Kevin McNamara, an Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said there had been concern about the recent cases of bullying of soldiers. Not only should the Government have an internal inquiry but it should also publish the results and say what steps would be taken to eradicate bullying in future.

Mr Freeman said that any complaints of mistreatment of soldiers, including recruits, were always fully investigated by the Ministry of Defence.

During questions about compensation for nuclear test veterans, Mr Freeman told Mr Ashley that Mr Younger had met a delegation, including members of the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association and the Section Ten Abolition Group, in February last year and that he (Mr Freeman) had received a petition about Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act, 1947, allowing Servicemen to sue for negligence, from the nuclear test veterans.

Mr Ashley said that former Servicemen and Servicewomen, disabled by negligence would continue their fight for the same right to sue for compensation as was to be given to the Armed Services now.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP), Alliance defence spokesman: If you believe as British Servicemen suffered injury from the British nuclear weapons tests, why are he and his colleagues so reluctant to have that view tested in the courts?

Mr Freeman said that repeal of Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act involved a welcome change in the law and procedure. But the change, removing a burden from Servicemen who could not sue for negligence, was not retrospective.

Tighter security after Army HQ bomb blast

Security measures at the British military base at Rheindahlen had been intensified since the car bomb explosion which injured 31 people on Monday night.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said in a statement to the Commons.

He added that security at all UK military establishments was continuously under review because of the potential threat of terrorist attack.

In his statement, Mr Stanley said: At about 10.30 local time last night a car bomb exploded outside an officers' mess at the joint headquarters of British Forces Germany at Rheindahlen.

A Nato social function was in progress at the time: 31 people were hurt in the explosion, 27 German and four British. Seven of them stayed overnight at the RAF Hospital at Weyberg and all but three have now been discharged. I am glad to say that no one was seriously injured.

A higher alert state than usual was in operation at the time without which the consequences of this explosion could well have resulted in much more extensive injuries. But large open areas crossed by public roads like the Rheindahlen HQ have self-evident security difficulties.

Further security measures are now in force.

An organization calling itself the National Democratic Front for the Liberation of West Germany claimed responsibility for the explosion some hours after it took place. This claim is being examined by the German authorities who are leading the investigation into the incident and with whom our own security authorities are in close co-operation.

Our sympathy goes to the British and German Servicemen and civilians and their wives who were injured in this incident.

Mr Desmond Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said it was a very serious incident that a terrorist bomb could be exploded at and inside the British military HQ at Rheindahlen, and the Opposition would like to be associated with the minister's expressions of sympathy for the injured.

Obviously, the German authorities were leading the investigation, but would there also be an internal investigation by the British authorities to see how security could be improved?

What was the state of alert at the time of the incident and was it now higher? Could he confirm press reports of a telephone call made some time before the explosion to a West German newspaper?

Mr Stanley said the British authorities would be conducting their own internal investigation from a security point of view. He could not go into details about the level of security alert that applied at the time, but it was higher than usual and further measures had been taken subsequently.

He understood that no warning was received at Rheindahlen before the explosion. But a normal civilian life was taking place all around.

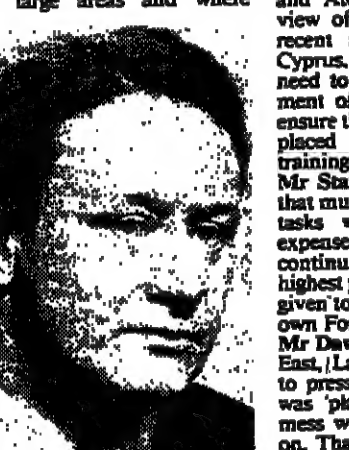
Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP), Alliance spokesman on defence, said that the explosion was a link between this incident and the murder last week of an Italian Air Force general. They might both be part of a campaign by a loosely knit group of terrorist organizations targeting Nato installations and personnel.

NATO ALERT

message in English about the bomb was received at the German press association at Mönchengladbach nearby before the explosion. It had not been fully understood because of language difficulties. A further warning was received at Rheindahlen a few minutes after the explosion.

Sir Antony Buck (Colchester North, C) said that it was a matter of grave concern that an incident could take place at such an important HQ. It might be necessary to look at other HQs with British and Nato roles to minimize the chances of anything similar happening there.

Mr Stanley said that the Rheindahlen site was broadly spread and a large number of public roads passed through it. This incident was taken very seriously and they would be looking for any lessons that could be learned from it. But it was immensely difficult to produce total security when Servicemen had to be spread over such large areas and where



Mr John Stanley: Sympathy to both nations.

Mr Stanley said that the time that must be devoted to security tasks was inevitably at the expense of training. This was a continuing dilemma but the highest possible priority must be given to the security of Britain's own Forces.

Mr David Young (Bolton South East, Lab) said that according to press reports, the car bomb was placed near an officers' mess where a party was going on. That suggested a great deal of internal intelligence reaching the terrorists.

Mr Stanley said it would be a high priority to establish who was responsible and to see how far they had been assisted in carrying out this outrage by any information they were able to glean about what social functions were taking place that night.

Sir Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C) said that, while it was right to react to a situation like this with a full inquiry, it would be a great mistake to over-react.

Mr Stanley said that he took that point.

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) said there should be an inquiry into the security arrangements not only at Rheindahlen but also at British defence establishments throughout West Germany.

He knew from personal experience how simple it was to walk into these establishments. There could be no weakness in the German personnel being used on security duties.

Mr Stanley said that there was some employment of local German civilians and that his confidence in those arrangements.

DEFENCE

which were now being pursued by the independent nations concerned.

As defence ministers had made clear to the Commons, no decision about the modernization of theatre nuclear weapons in service with British Armed Forces had yet been taken.

He had been accused of deceit about the Montebello meeting by Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Moseley Hill, L), who said that now that American authorities had admitted that W79 nuclear shells had been deployed in West Germany since the Montebello decision on the modernization of theatre nuclear weapons, how could the totally contradictory and deceitful replies given from the dispatch box to Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L), Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP) and Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, L), be justified?

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, intervened and asked for the word deceit to be withdrawn and Mr Alton agreed to withdraw the word.

Mr Stanley said he could certainly justify exactly what had been said. At the Montebello meeting the Nuclear Planning Group of Nato had agreed to a big reduction in the numbers of theatre nuclear weapons in Europe and the need for possible improvements to ensure the effectiveness of the remaining stockpile. That was clearly set out in the communiqué on the Montebello meeting.

Sacred (Supreme Allied Commander, Europe) put forward improvements and these are being pursued with the individual nations concerned, but no decisions affecting the modernization of the theatre force have yet been made.

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Caution over cancer cash

It was extremely difficult to put cancer on the list of treatments that ranked for special prescription charges, Mrs Thatcher said during Prime Minister's questions.

That was because it was not easy to detect. It was because many people did not wish to know whether they had it. No government had found it possible to add that particular disease to the list.

She was replying to Mr Lawrence Pavit (Brent South, Lab), who asked if she would negotiate with the British Medical Association to add cancer to the seven diseases already accepted for exemption. Listing the costs paid for treatment by cancer patients, he said the average healthy or sick, paid £2.30 a week for medicines but only the sick paid twice.

Low-flying complaints  
In the past five years about 5,000 complaints a year had been received from the public about alleged incursions of low-flying military aircraft. Mr Roger Freeman, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said during Commons questions.

The restrictions permitted pilots to fly down to 250 feet. He did not hold out much hope for any basic change in the system by which low flying was allowed anywhere in the country outside large towns and air traffic control zones.

Safety for helicopters  
The Civil Aviation Authority is undertaking a three-year programme of research into helicopter safety costing £1.6 million and based upon recommendations made by the Helicopter Airworthiness Requirements Panel. Mr Michael Spicer, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, announced in a Commons written reply.

He said that it was Government policy that the civil aviation industry should normally meet the costs of research, but exceptionally the department was contributing £400,000 towards the cost of this programme including £100,000 in 1987-88. The Department of Energy, the UK Offshore Operators' Association and the CAA were also contributing, he said.

Defence help for small firms  
More than 500 small firms had consulted the Ministry of Defence since the Small Firms Initiative, designed to increase competitive opportunities and to secure best value for money, was announced in March 1985. Mr Archibald Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said during Commons questions.

He said that the Small Firms Advice Division advised small firms seeking to penetrate the defence market individually, and through regional seminars, about Ministry of Defence procurement policies.

Syria 'must be helping'  
In a sharp reply at question time, the Prime Minister said that she assumed that Syria was always doing anything she could to assist in the release of hostages.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) asked: Does she agree that anything that Syria could do to assist in the release of the hostages would materially affect better relations with Syria?

Mrs Thatcher: I assume that anything Syria can do it already is doing.

Thanks for the music  
This was great day for Army bands, for military music and for Kneller Hall, the Royal Military School of Music, Mr Toby Lewis (Widmore, C) said during Commons questions in reference to the Government decision not to amalgamate military music schools.

To loud cheers from Conservative MPs, Mr Jessel, who had been campaigning against the amalgamation plans, extended his thanks to Mr Archibald Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, to his colleagues and to the Prime Minister herself.

Scotch gets due praise  
The whisky dispensed at Chequers and 10 Downing Street is genuine Scotch and very good, the hosts at both houses, told the Commons at question time. Mr Alexander Pollock (Moray, C) had suggested that the Prime Minister should hold functions at Chequers, providing the opportunity to offer generous supplies of Scotch whisky to invited guests enabling them to appreciate that fine product, distilled in his constituency.

New peer  
Lord Carter, formerly Mr Denis Carter, took his seat on the Labour benches in the House of Lords.



Mr Stefan Terlecki: "Britain needs a constant reminder of the man".

Tory calls for holiday in Churchill's memory

Britain should have a constant reminder of the man who saved the country in the hour of its greatest peril, Mr Stefan Terlecki (Cardiff West, C) said when proposing the introduction of a Sir Winston Churchill National Day.

He was given leave under the 10-minute rule procedure, by 160 votes to 80, to introduce a Bill which would discontinue the May Day bank holiday and establish a Churchill Day on or near May 10, the date when the then Mr Churchill became Prime Minister in 1940.

Mr Terlecki said that the holiday was proposing would remind people, particularly youngsters and future generations, of a great man whose steadfastness and courageous leadership captured people's hearts and saved Britain from Nazi slavery.

He should be given this place in British history as the greatest freedom fighter of modern times.

For the past 42 years Britain had enjoyed freedom, democracy, peace and tranquillity thanks to the resilience, patriotism and sacrifices of the British people and their great leader, Sir Winston Churchill, during the Second World War.

He had been privileged to share that freedom and peace for the past 39 years, having first heard Churchill's name from his father when he was a small boy in the Ukraine. Many millions were still experiencing the slavery, repression and fascism he had experienced then.

When he arrived in Britain it had been like heaven on earth but he would not be here today if it had not been for Churchill. Nothing was more precious than freedom. It was like fresh air when you did not have it you missed it. That was why he sought support for his Bill.

Mr Dave Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab), opposing the Bill, complained that Britain had fewer public holidays than almost any European country and that workers worked longer than the European average. This knocked on the head the Tory idea about the lazy British worker.

Many Tories associated May Day with tanks running through the streets of Moscow. This was about as accurate as blaming all Roman Catholics for the Spanish Inquisition.

The origins of May Day stemmed from 1886 when workers in America downed tools in support of an eight-hour day.

For many workers, 101 years later, that had still not been achieved.

In America, notwithstanding the law requiring workers to be given an eight-hour day, many employers refused to do so and the workers organized a strike with the slogan: "Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest and eight hours for what we will".

The tradition of a May Day holiday was brought to Britain by a Labour Government in 1978.

If it was replaced by a Winston Churchill holiday, which Churchill would they celebrate?

Would it be the one who said that he hated the Tory Party; the one who as Home Secretary personally provided troops in the Welsh coalfields in 1911; the one who put Britain back on the gold standard and increased the price of exports; the one who used tanks against the general strike; the one who wrote in praise of Hitler and Mussolini before the war until he recognized their threat to British capitalism and areas of influence?

Churchill's influence would never be erased from the history books, but the interpretation of his importance would change.

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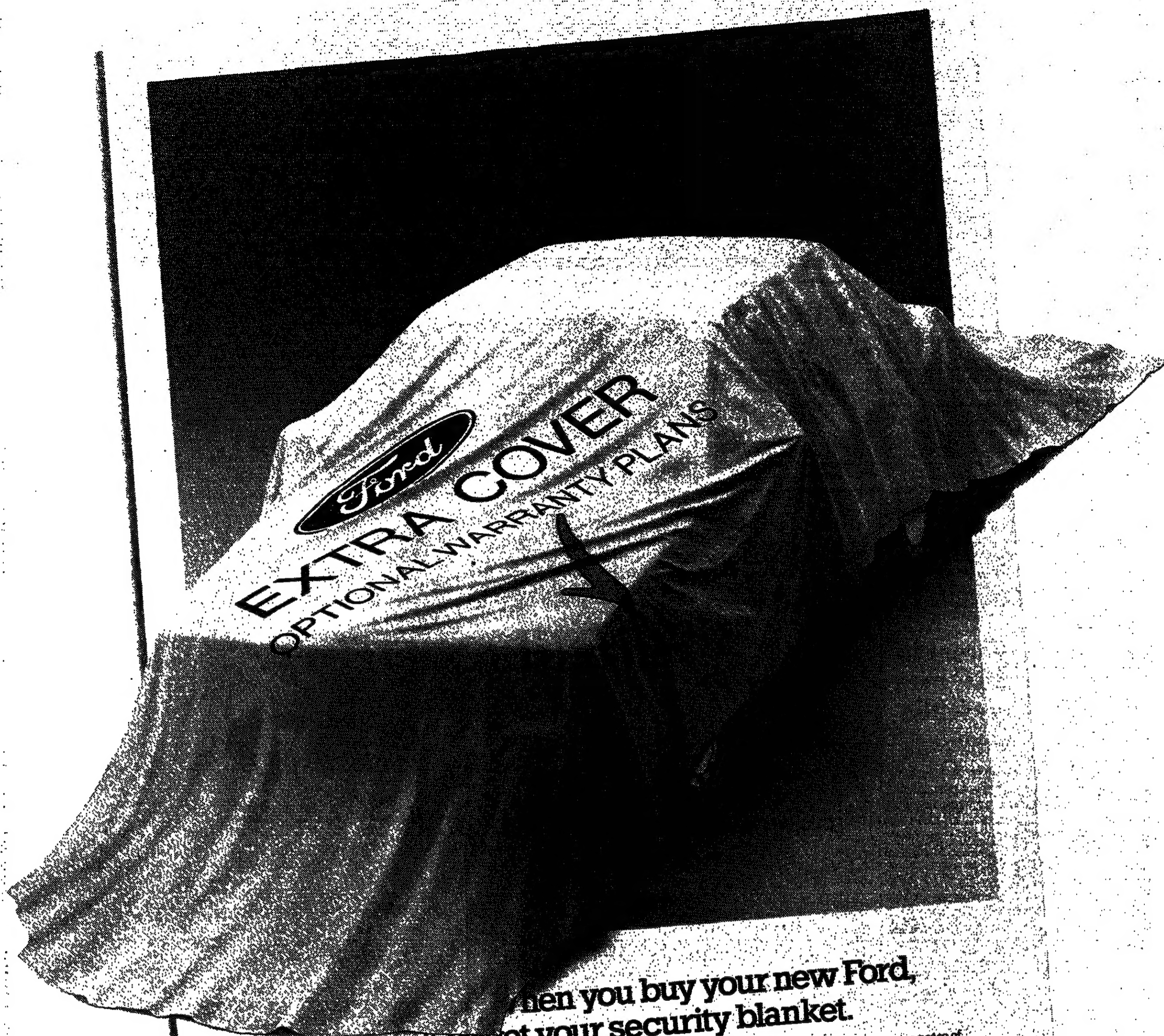
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It will help protect you against most unexpected repair bills.

The Extra Cover option gives you peace of mind beyond Ford's 12 month Unlimited Mileage Assurance.

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save you worrying. Don't

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And should your car be stolen you'll also be put on Ford's 'Stolen Vehicle' register. That could give you a greater chance of getting it back again. Quickly.

All in all we think the quality of our security blanket is even better. Why not order one in your size?





## WORLD SUMMARY

**\$324m drug haul in California**

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Police seized more than 1,900 lb of cocaine with a street value of \$324 million (\$200 million) and arrested two Colombians and a Cuban in what they said was the biggest cocaine haul in California history.

Jorge Umberto Restrepo, aged 40, a Colombian, and Jose Vicente Murray-Blanco, aged 33, a Cuban, were arrested yesterday when they allegedly took a suitcase containing 66 lb of the drug from a car.

It had been driven from a house in which a further 1,841 lb of cocaine was allegedly found and where a third man, Jaime Santamaria Hiestroza, 26, a Colombian, was arrested.

**González faces vote**

Madrid - Spain's right-wing opposition party, the Popular Alliance, has tabled the first motion of no confidence against Señor Felipe González, the Socialist Prime Minister.

But as the Socialists command a clear majority, the real objective is to oust the present wave of industrial unrest, as he did with a similar motion against the Centre Democrat Government in 1980.

**'We killed general'**

Rome (AFP) - Prospero Gallinari, one of the leaders of the Red Brigades accused of murdering Aldo Moro, the former Italian Prime Minister, claimed responsibility during his trial for last Friday's killing of General Licio Giorgieri.

Testifying during hearings in the third trial over the killing of Moro, Signor Gallinari shouted: "We claim responsibility for the murder of Licio Giorgieri, which comrades of the Fighting Communist Party undertook." His declaration confirmed suspicions of a link between the Fighting Communists and the Red Brigades.

**Nuclear apathy**

Oslo - A seminar organized by Norwegian scientists to discuss safety measures and contingency plans for future Chernobyl-style nuclear accidents has been cancelled for lack of interest (Tony Samways writes).

Only two bookings resulted from 1,000 invitations by the Institute for Energy Technology. A study of the Chernobyl crisis concluded that Norway had been ill-prepared for such catastrophes.

**Seal hunt controls**

Ottawa (AFP) - Strict controls will be imposed on all large seal-hunting ships this year, the Canadian Minister for Fisheries and Oceans, Mr. Tom Siddons, said on Monday.

He said two federal agents would accompany each ship to ensure that rules were respected.

Seal-hunting firms have given assurances that they will not hunt baby seals. They will have quotas of 57,000 seals a ship.

**Comoros poll row**

Moroni, Comoros (AFP) - The federal assembly in the Indian Ocean Comoros archipelago will have no opposition, according to unofficial results of Sunday's polling, which has been bitterly criticized.

There was no doubt that most of the 42 seats would favour President Ahmed Abdallah, but the opposition has been credited with voting at all. The result has brought charges that the poll was rigged by the authorities.

**Nazi hunter sues**

Vienna - Dr. Simon Wiesenthal, left, the Nazi hunter, sued Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the former Austrian Chancellor, here yesterday for implying that he had been in the pay of the Gestapo during the war (Richard Bassett writes). Dr. Kreisky apologized for remarks in the magazine Profil, but Dr. Wiesenthal refused to accept the apology and said that legal proceedings against Dr. Kreisky would continue.

**It was the real thing**

Northampton, Massachusetts (AFP) - A woman who was sacked by Coca-Cola over her love for a man employed by the soft drink company's arch-rival, Pepsi-Cola, has been compensated by her former employers in an out-of-court settlement. Mrs Amanda Conklin claimed £400,000 in damages, but the amount agreed was not disclosed.

She fell in love with Mr David Conklin, who left Coca-Cola to join Pepsi-Cola, and was sacked after refusing three options given by the company - to break off her engagement, persuade her fiancé to return or resign.

**Soviet press cites Benn in attack on human rights record in Britain**

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Assisted by Mr Tony Benn, the Labour MP, the official Soviet media and the Foreign Ministry have launched a series of bitter attacks on Britain's defence and human rights policies in the run-up to Saturday's keenly anticipated arrival in Moscow of Mrs Thatcher.

Ironically, the most virulent of the new wave of anti-British comment is contained in an explosive interview granted to the Soviet weekly, *New Times*, by Mr Benn and published yesterday to coincide with the first official visit by a British Prime Minister for 12 years.

Described by the magazine as an "outstanding representative of the British working class movement", Mr Benn told his interviewer: "As for Britain's human rights record, it is nothing to be proud of. It occupies Northern Ireland, where it threatens the basic human right - the right to life. In our country, people are jailed for political reasons."

The latest examples are the arrest of Terry French, a Kent miner, and of Michael Hicks, the printers' leader, who has just been released. Dissent is fought by the most ingenious methods in Britain. A few people I know identify with

Marxism in a purely theoretical sense. This alone makes them automatically ineligible for the Civil Service or the BBC."

One Western source said that Mr Benn's diatribe against the state of Britain would provide Mr Gorbachev with the type of "ammunition" he would welcome to

Mrs Thatcher will raise the issue of the Cambodian conflict with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Defence Secretary, Mr George Younger, said in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, yesterday (Reuters reports).

Mr Younger is in Thailand for talks with Thai leaders on military co-operation, Cambodia and other issues.

counter complaints about Soviet human rights abuses, which Mrs Thatcher is expected to raise.

In a long article from its London correspondent, *Pravda* also poured scorn on Britain's human rights record and accused Mrs Thatcher of clinging to outmoded ideas by seeking peace from a position of strength.

Much of the paper's anger was provoked by the Prime Minister's speech to a Conser-

vative audience in Torquay last Saturday which was also attacked by Mr Boris Pyadyshev, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, who regretted that it had "contained a sufficient portion of elements which are unfriendly".

He said: "One can assume that the speech has been affected to no small extent by the election campaign issues and is a kind of tribute to those quarters in Britain and in the West as a whole which are out to contain the process of normalizing East-West relations."

*Pravda* said the Torquay speech had included attacks by Mrs Thatcher on the Soviet Union and that she had praised the idea of arguing from a position of strength as the most reliable basis for peace. It warned in a key passage: "One must not forget that attempts to speak to the Soviet Union from such a position (of strength) never produced anything and only led the world into a dead end."

The sudden spate of attacks on the British Government's stand on principal issues - notably human rights and defence - is seen by diplomats as tougher than that normally adopted in the Moscow press

**State polls augur ill for Gandhi**

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

Early results from the three states holding assembly elections confirmed that yesterday was not one of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's good days.

The Indian Prime Minister, faced with the failure of an important component of India's space programme and a further defeat by Pakistan in the series of one-day international cricket matches, also heard that the coalition led by his party in the southern state of Kerala was having a particularly hard time.

If counting trends continue, the Communist-led Left Democratic Front seems capable of overturning his Government. Although Congress and its allies have a bare 11 to eight majority in the seats so far declared, the LDF was leading in the majority of constituencies where declarations have not yet been made.

If Mr Gandhi loses Kerala, there will be no southern state with a Congress government, apart from the tiny territory of Pondicherry.

In West Bengal, Mr Gandhi seems to have made little impact on the Communist domination of the Legislative Assembly.

The good news for Mr Gandhi was that in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress alliance was heading for a resounding victory.

Rocket falls, page 10

**Moscow obeys US order on diplomats**

From Zoriana Pysarskiy, New York

A possible confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union has been averted after a decision by Moscow quietly to heed an American order that it reduce the size of its mission to the United Nations. The mission has been described by US officials as "a den of espionage".

Soviet officials have given assurances that they are in compliance with the American directive, setting ceilings on the number of diplomatic personnel, ordered for April 1. The order was issued last year and the first phase of the

reduction in October added to the strain in Soviet-American relations, with tensions already high over the case of Mr Nicholas Daniloff, the American reporter who was held in Moscow on charges of spying.

The Daniloff affair was sparked off by the arrest on spying charges in the US of Mr Gennady Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the UN. A few days later, Mr Daniloff was seized.

Several weeks ago Soviet sources indicated that they believed the second phase of cuts due on April 1 would be handled quietly.



General Alexander Haig, surrounded by members of his family, signing official papers to enter his name for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination in New York yesterday.

**General Haig's long shot**

From Charles Bremner, New York

General Alexander Haig, who has entered the race for the nomination as the Republican Party's presidential candidate in 1988, conceded yesterday that he is a "dark horse".

Appearing with his freckle-faced grandchildren at a rally in New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel, General Haig said he offered a new style of leadership for the United States and delivered thinly-veiled criticism of President Reagan's handling of the Iranian arms affair.

"A President... cannot mistake his standing in the polls with the real quality of his policy," he said.

The 62-year-old general, who has had a long and often controversial public career that included a stint as Presi-

dent Nixon's Chief of Staff, acknowledged that his attempt was a long shot. According to polls among Republican voters, he ranks far down the list of seven candidates who have entered the race.

General Haig is handicapped by an image of abrasiveness verging on arrogance, largely shaped by his troubled 18 months as President Reagan's first Secretary of State.

Though he had served in Europe as Nato commander in the late 1970s, he was regarded by the European allies as insensitive and difficult to deal with and they greeted the

appointment of his successor, Mr George Shultz, with relief.

General Haig's years as a private consultant have done little to curb his fondness for the opaque jargon and convoluted syntax that became known as "Haig-speak". He said yesterday that he had received strong support "from everyone - from servicemen and women, Hispanics, East Europeans, Asians and the business community".

The Republican field includes Vice-President George Bush; Senator Robert Dole; Congressman Jack Keas; the former Delaware Governor, Mr Pierre du Pont; the media evangelist, Mr Pat Robertson; and a former Secretary of Defence and congressman, Mr Donald Rumsfeld.

**Man in the News**

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**Guards officer remanded in custody**

Uppsala - Captain Simon Hayward, of the Life Guards, was remanded in custody here yesterday until April 24 on suspicion of smuggling 110 lb of cannabis into Sweden (Christopher Mosey writes).

Four others, including two women, were also remanded on suspicion of offences against Sweden's drug laws, the prosecutor said.

Squad, said Swedish police were anxious to talk to Captain Hayward's brother, Christopher, who lives on Ibiza, and who was the owner of the Jaguar in which the cannabis was found.

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26-30	17.35	22.45	27.55	32.65
31-35	18.35	23.45	28.55	33.65
36-40	19.35	24.45	29.55	34.65
41-45	20.35	25.45	30.55	35.65
46-50	21.35	26.45	31.55	36.65
51-55	22.35	27.45	32.55	37.65
FEMALE				
18-20	16.35	21.45	26.55	31.65
21-25	17.35	22.45	27.55	32.65
26-30	18.35	23.45	28.55	33.65
31-35	19.35	24.45	29.55	34.65
36-40	20.35	25.45	30.55	35.65
41-45	21.35	26.45	31.55	36.65
46-50	22.35	27.45	32.55	37.65
51-55	23.35	28.45	33.55	38.65

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39. Have you



## EEC ministers open way for cheaper scheduled air fares

From Richard Owen, Brussels

In a move heralding cheaper air fares for all travellers in Europe, EEC Transport Ministers yesterday broke months of deadlock and agreed in principle on a new structure of discount prices for scheduled air travel.

The main beneficiaries of the scheme, which cases the conditions for discount fares, would be off-peak travellers, especially students, pensioners and those travelling as a family or in groups, all of whom could get up to half off the normal economy fare.

But Mr Hermann de Croo, the Belgian Transport Minister and President of the EEC Transport Council, said that peak time travellers, including businessmen, would also benefit.

Mr de Croo said that airlines' fears that the new deal would reduce their income from business travellers

paying full fares were unfounded. He estimated that the cheaper air fares scheme would increase air travel overall by 30 per cent. "We are now in a take-off position for more liberal skies in Europe," he declared jubilantly.

But EEC officials cautioned that the air fares deal was still subject to a number of qualifications.

These include a clause written into the agreement on the insistence of several states, led by Greece, that any new fares proposed by an EEC airline can be challenged by other EEC airlines using the same route.

The clause says that new price structures must take into account not only the needs of consumers, but also the market situation, "including the tariffs of other air carriers operating on the route".

The Commission objected that this could be used to block cheaper air fares and protect inefficient airlines. Officials were last night seeking a formula to close this loophole and ensure that the clause was not used to infringe free competition rules enshrined in the Treaty of Rome.

The discount fares deal is part of a wider EEC package on the liberalization of air transport which the Commission has said must be adopted by the end of June. The fate of the discount fares scheme depends on whether full agreement is reached on other aspects of air transport.

Mr John Moore, the Transport Minister, said the scheme was a very important breakthrough which finally introduced economic criteria in the discount field. He welcomed the move, which he said built on the air fares package proposed by the British Presidency of the EEC at the end of last year.

Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the Commissioner for Transport, described the move as a big step forward, especially the prospect of low fares for off-peak travellers. Until now, bargain fares had only been available to those staying away for a weekend or longer.

Under the proposal, all discount and "deep discount" fares would assume a round trip and a maximum stay of six months. Examples of the decision are that a discount fare - between 65 and 90 per cent of the normal economy fare - would apply during peak periods provided there was a minimum stay of not less than six nights or a stay including one Saturday night.

Those under 25 or over 60, however, would get peak period "deep discounts" with the minimum of conditions.

The wreckage of a German-registered Toyota car containing 220 lb of explosives which blew up at the British Army HQ in Rheindahlen on Monday night, injuring 31 people.

## Army HQ open target for bombers

From John England Bonn



The wreckage of a German-registered Toyota car containing 220 lb of explosives which blew up at the British Army HQ in Rheindahlen on Monday night, injuring 31 people.

The British Army officers' mess blasted by a car bomb on Monday was, like most of the buildings on the sprawling, campus-style headquarters at Rheindahlen - the biggest military installation of its kind in Europe - an open target for a terrorist attack.

Carved out of a forest, the Harderwald, not far from the Dutch border and completed in 1954, the British and Nato joint headquarters is laid out like an English new town of the postwar era. Like any normal town, it also has public roads running through.

Only the main headquarters building and some other sensitive areas are usually guarded closely. One is free to walk around the rest of the "estate", which has a daytime population of about 12,000 Allied servicemen and their families and German civilian employees.

Rheindahlen houses two British and two Nato headquarters. The former are those of the British Army of the Rhine and RAF Germany. The latter cover Nato's Northern Army Group and the Second Allied Tactical Air Force.

The houses have a "council look" about them but most are spacious. There are about 12 messes for officers, NCOs and British civil servants, clubs for other ranks, primary and secondary schools, a cinema, an open-air swimming pool, two churches, and fire brigade and police stations.

## Britain accused of blocking research spending

Brussels - France and West Germany yesterday moved towards a more flexible position over blocked EEC spending on research and technology, leaving Britain increasingly isolated as the only member-state still holding up a compromise agreement (Richard Owen writes).

Diplomats said that the new French position, to some extent backed by the Germans, was still not close enough to

the EEC Commission's proposals for an agreement to be reached.

But angry Commission sources concentrated their fire on Britain. They said that Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Minister for Information Technology, who represents Britain at EEC research councils, was "being obstructive for reasons which appear to be more related to internal British politics than to the

needs of the EEC".

Officials accused Britain of taking "a hypocritical position". They said Mr Pattie had been misleading when he said in an interview on Radio Four yesterday that the extra research funding was not sufficiently orientated towards the interests of industry.

Mr Pattie yesterday refused to speak to the press in Brussels.

## Transvaal strikers risk dismissal

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

At least 8,400 black employees of the South African Transport Services were reported yesterday to be on strike in the Transvaal and under threat of summary dismissal.

It is the biggest strike in the public sector in seven years. Union spokesmen claimed that as many as 14,000 were on strike.

Under South African law, transport is regarded as an "essential service" and strikes by transport workers are illegal. A notice published in a special government gazette on Monday empowers the general manager of the service, which employs some 100,000 blacks countrywide, to sack

the strikers without notice. This power has not been used so far.

Although the strike has not yet seriously disrupted transport services, it has led to a two-day backlog of more than 2,000 containers awaiting delivery at the Johannesburg's City Deep cargo and freight depot.

● Schoolgirls raped: Five schoolgirls were raped and a man was backed to death in the latest wave of black-against-black violence when a bus for black pupils broke down near Graskop in the eastern Transvaal (Reuter reports).

## Thousands flee acid fire fumes

Nanticoke (Reuter) - A cloud of sulphuric acid fumes from a blazing factory yesterday forced all 18,000 people to evacuate this north-eastern Pennsylvania town.

No injuries were reported from the toxic fumes, according to the municipal emergency manager, but police and National Guard units with gas masks patrolled streets.

## Tanker blast

Kuala Lumpur (Reuter) - Seven men died in an explosion on an oil tanker anchored in the Straits of Malacca off southern Johore state, Malaysian police said.

## Woman freed

Jerusalem (Reuter) - A Palestinian woman aged 26 who says she miscarried because of rough treatment by police questioning her about alleged guerrilla activity, has been freed on bail, an Israeli Army spokesman said.

## Looking up

Tucson, Arizona (AFP) - The world's largest optical telescope is to be built on top of the Mauna Kea volcano in Hawaii.

## Asylum plea

Athens (Reuter) - Alexei Rismeny, aged 32, a Soviet computer programmer, sought political asylum in Greece after arriving on a flight from Vienna.

## Mayor held

Monrovia (AFP) - Six people, including a town mayor, have been arrested in Grand Kru county in eastern Liberia over the ritual killing of a student aged 24.

## Biaggi bail

New York (AFP) - Mario Biaggi, the New York Democratic Representative, has denied charges of bribery and conspiracy in a federal court and has been released without bail.

## Arms charge

Manila (AP) - An army captain identified as the prime suspect in last week's bombing at the Philippine Military Academy was charged with illegal weapons possession, a military spokesman said.

Herr Vogel will crack down on party troublemakers

## Vogel will not woo the Greens

From John England Bonn

West Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) will not lurch to the left after the resignation of its chairman, Herr Willy Brandt, the designated future party leader, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, made clear yesterday.

Giving a press conference in Bonn less than 24 hours after Herr Brandt had resigned amid a row over his nomination of a young Greek woman journalist as the SPD's chief press spokeswoman, Herr Vogel said the party would maintain its course of "continuity and renewal".

Herr Vogel, the SPD's parliamentary leader and one of its two vice-chairmen, was nominated by the party's National Executive on Monday to succeed Herr Brandt. He is expected to be elected the new chairman at a special party congress on June 16.

Under Herr Vogel, who is acceptable to all wings of the party, the SPD will not embrace the Greens in a coalition that its left-wingers would welcome.

A hard worker, who is known as a tough disciplinarian with an old-fashioned, Prussian-like passion for punctuality, Herr Vogel will also crack down on the trouble-makers in the party who have become vocal under Herr Brandt's loose rein.

Herr Vogel claimed that the SPD had "regained the initiative" after Herr Brandt's resignation announcement with its swift decisions on Monday over the future leadership. These also included nominating Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the left-wing Prime Minister of Saarland, as a vice-chairman to succeed Herr Vogel.

For Anke Fuchs, the deputy SPD parliamentary leader, was named as the party's first woman manager.

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## Syrian action awaited after talks on foreigners' fate in Lebanon

# Carter compares plight of hostages to Israel's imprisonment of Arabs

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Damascus

Mr Jimmy Carter, the former American President, in a statement issued yesterday compared the holding of foreign hostages in Lebanon with the imprisonment by Israel of hundreds of Arabs.

"It is inappropriate for Israel to capture hundreds of people in Lebanon and take them to prison in Israel. It is also inappropriate for kidnappers to take innocent hostages," he told a news conference in Damascus.

Mr Carter spoke only a few hours after the kidnappers of three American teachers and one Indian professor said in a statement distributed in Beirut that Mr Alann Steen, one of the captives, had fallen so ill that he could die in captivity in 10 days or so.

The group holding the teachers, the so-called Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, said Mr Steen's life could be saved only if the United States succeeded in persuading Israel to free 100 Arabs held in Israeli prisons.

"To use his (Mr Steen's)

illness as a political ploy is absolutely disgusting, and I can assure you that is an opinion shared by leaders here in Syria," Mr Carter said.

He described kidnappers as "despicable criminals", but he

Israel yesterday rejected an offer by the kidnappers of Mr Alann Steen, an American hostage in Lebanon, to exchange him for 100 Arab prisoners held in Israeli jails (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Meanwhile, Mr Steen's wife said yesterday that private negotiations were underway to free her husband and his three colleagues. Mr Steen's brother has offered to swap places with the Beirut University professor after reports, issued by his captors, that he is seriously ill and might die within 10 days.

said he saw no objections in an exchange of hostages for prisoners, something which has been rejected by both the United States Government and the Israelis. "It would suit me fine to see large numbers

of people released from Israel if they are not guilty of any crime and to have all the hostages released," he said.

Mr Carter's pragmatic approach appeared to reflect his own realization that not even the Syrian Army - now in control of most of west Beirut - is capable of securing the release of 24 foreigners held by Muslim radicals in Lebanon. Most, if not all of them, including Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, are believed to be held in Beirut's southern suburbs, outside the areas controlled by 7,000 Syrian troops sent to Beirut a month ago.

As expected, Mr Carter's three-day visit to Syria in the framework of a private tour of the Middle East and North Africa, was dominated by the obstacles facing the proposed international conference on Middle East peace and the question of the hostages in Lebanon.

Mr Carter, who held at least three rounds of talks with President Assad, in addition to lengthy meetings with Mr



Sheikh Mohammed Shamseddine, a Shia Muslim cleric, vowing in Beirut yesterday to help free hostages. With him is M Marc Normandin, left, father of the French TV man, M Jean-Louis Normandin, whose kidnappers lifted a death threat.

Farouk al-Shaar, the Syrian Foreign Minister, appeared convinced of Syria's interest in helping to solve the hostage problem.

"I have received the fullest assurances that every possible avenue is being explored to

locate and obtain the release of the hostages safely," he said.

Mr Carter's news conference was his last activity in Damascus, where he had received treatment reserved for heads of state, despite the

private nature of his trip. Mr Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, flew on to Amman for talks with King Hussein and possibly Palestinian representatives. Tomorrow Mr Carter will travel to Israel.

● SIDON: An Israeli Navy patrol boat intercepted a Lebanese cargo ship yesterday inside Lebanese territorial waters and forced it to sail to Tyre in southern Lebanon, a stronghold of the Shia Amal militia, authoritative sources said (AFP reports).

## Peres in peace conference soundings

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, met a group of leading Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza yesterday as part of a co-ordinated effort by his Labour Party to find out whether it is possible to organize a Middle East peace conference.

At least 10 Palestinians took part in the meeting. They are all well known for their moderate views, although all were said to have told Mr Peres that there could be no meaningful talks without the involvement of the PLO.

Mr Peres said the aim of the meeting was to see what could be done to further the peace momentum.

Meanwhile, the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, Mr Avram Tamir, was in New York to see the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors to the UN. Both countries are permanent members of the Security Council and have no diplomatic relations with Israel.

These meetings, plus another in Jerusalem today, point to an effort by the party to sound out all those interested in a peace conference, meeting under the auspices of the Security Council's permanent members.

## Economic crisis in Zambia

# Switch to farming may be too late

From Paul Valley, Lusaka

Around the turn of the century, when the copper which provides 90 per cent of Zambia's foreign earnings runs out, there will be nothing for the nation to do but turn to agriculture.

The tragedy is that this crucial alternative sector was not developed when the Kamunda Government had the money to do it in the copper-rich decade which followed independence.

Zambia has vast tracks of unexploited land, good soils, plentiful water for irrigation, cheap hydro-electric power and abundant manpower. Yet only 5 per cent of all the country's class I and II arable land is under cultivation, and although moves are now being made to alter this the fear is that they are too little, too late.

In common with most African countries, Zambia's post-independence agricultural strategy was to control production through a National Agricultural Marketing Board (Namboard) to which all farmers were compelled to sell.

The theory was that Namboard would keep the price paid to producers as low as possible in order to keep food cheap for the large urban and mining population. In practice, it forced farmers to cultivate for sub-economic returns and hence discouraged them from producing more than they needed personally to survive.

In the early years there was much rhetoric about the need to develop farming. Officials made lofty pronouncements that farmers should increase production "in the national interest".

There was a little investment, but it was badly planned. At the fertilizer factory built at Kafue, for example, no attempt was made to develop the mining of Zambia's rich phosphate resources. The phosphates, like everything else in Zambia, were paid for from the surplus on the national trading account, which was fine while copper prices were high, but today, short of foreign exchange, it is working at less than half capacity.

Last year, aided by rains which ended a drought, Zam-

bia had a bumper harvest, approaching self-sufficiency in maize for the first time.

General inefficiency took the edge off the success, with as much as 25 per cent of the crop being lost in some areas through grain collection and some 10 to 15 per cent being smuggled to Zaire and Malawi, where farmers secure prompt cash payment at favourable prices.

Although the 1987 harvest may be 25 per cent down on last year because of poor rains, the overall improvement in the cereal sector is encouraging. But if Zambia hopes for export earnings from agriculture, it is the cash crop sector which must be expanded.

"There is a lot of progress," said Mr John Hudson of the Commercial Farmers' Bureau. "Production has increased dramatically. Wheat, beef, cooking oil and cotton are now produced locally. Some luxury goods, like asparagus and strawberries, are flown to Europe. There are big steps forward in coffee."

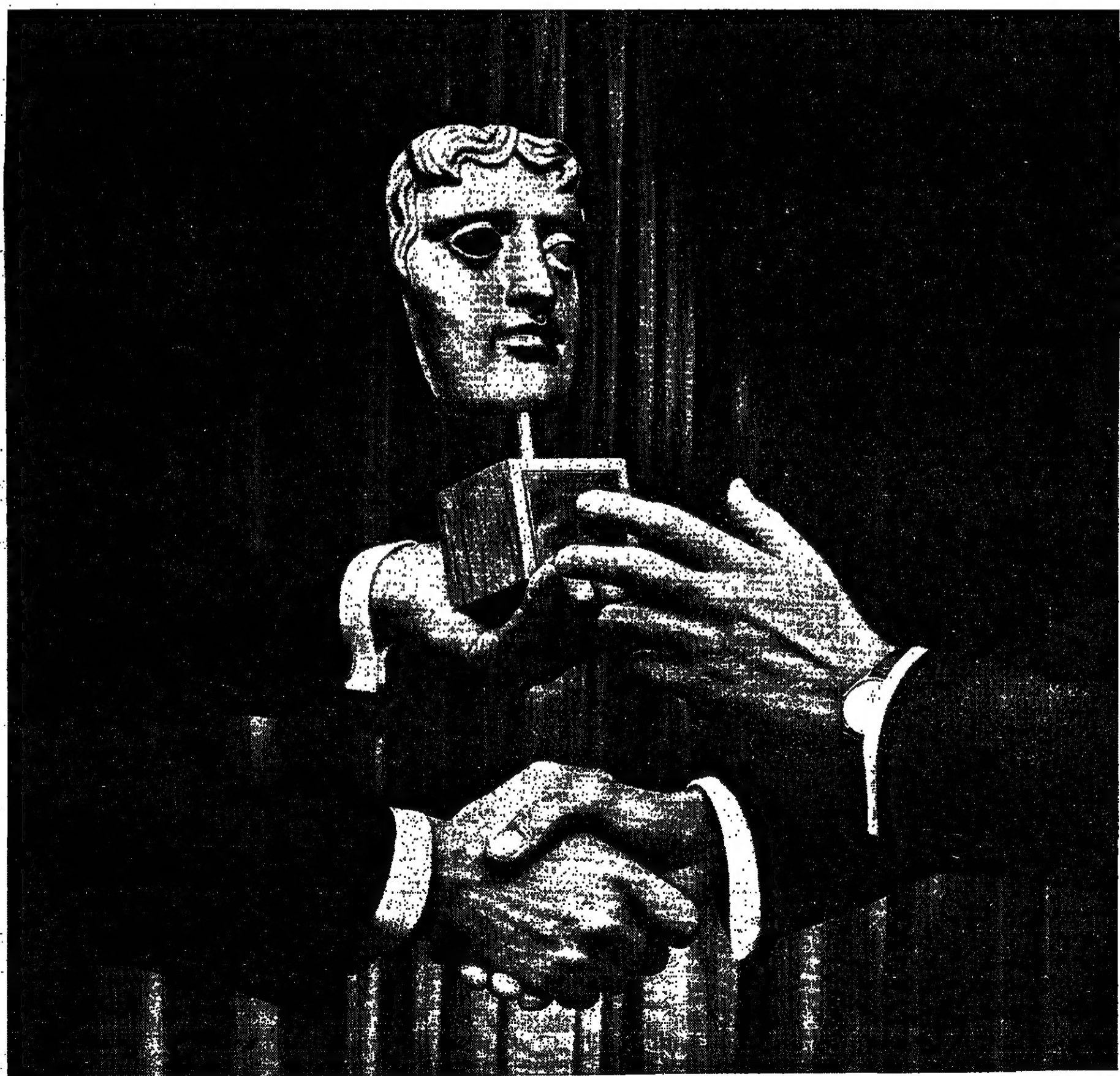
But this progress is in its early stages. Continuing liberalisation is needed to help both the cash and subsistence sectors, but this is meeting opposition and inertia within the Government and the cumbersome bureaucracy.

Perhaps the main stumbling block is the issue of land reform. In Zambia there are only 865 commercial farmers with more than 40 hectares (about 100 acres) and some 25,000 with between 10 and 40. The vast majority, some 387,000, are subsistence producers.

The chief problem is financing growth and encouraging redundant mining workers to move back to the land. The only sensible way, for a bankrupt country like Zambia, to provide them with seed, fertilizers, tools and oxen is by encouraging commercial loans.

"If people in the rural areas had negotiable title to the land they occupy, they would be able to use that title as collateral for loans, just as established commercial farmers commonly do," Mr Hudson said.

## IT SEEMS THE BBC JUST CAN'T KEEP OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT THESE DAYS.



## Afghan air power hit by Mujahidin

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mujahidin guerrillas fighting in Afghanistan have won a series of significant successes, particularly in shooting down aircraft, according to Western diplomats in Delhi.

Afghan sources have confirmed that a jet and two helicopters were shot down on March 3 at Dusarak near the main Bagram air base outside Kabul. A diplomat also described the downing of a second jet at Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan two weeks ago in which everyone on board was reported to have been killed.

Also in the east a "very reliable diplomatic source" detailed an attack on an Afghan Army convoy on March 12 in Khogani, which was followed by three days of fighting. On the third day the Mujahidin brought down no fewer than three attacking helicopters, it was said.

source reported that two Afghan jets were shot down at Gubahar. Three days later, during heavy fighting in the Herat area, a helicopter was downed at Shindand, where the Kabul regime's main air base in the western part of the country is situated.

Later last week "usually reliable Afghan sources" described the shooting down of another jet fighter, this time near Ghazni in the south.

The diplomats also report what they suggest is the surreptitious reinforcing of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan, which they indicate may be the prelude to a further publicized "withdrawal" of troops. Fully-equipped soldiers have been seen crossing the border at Hairatan.

"While we consider the source to be reliable, we have no information to corroborate the report," a Western dip-

We've certainly attracted a lot of attention over the past year. And we have to admit, some of it we could have done without.

Recently though we've been in the news for happier reasons.

Last Sunday, for instance, we picked up 12 awards at BAFTA (to add to the clean sweep of the 11 BAFTA Craft Awards for television the weekend before).

And in between those two we did very nicely thank you at the Broadcasting Press Guild Awards, walking off with 8 of the 12 trophies.

There's no doubt about it, picking up awards is far more gratifying than dodging the flak.

BBC



## Setback for India's space programme

# Gandhi sees rocket launch fail

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, who badly needs a morale boost, watched yesterday as his country's second generation space rocket failed to place a 150kg satellite into low earth orbit.

"Failure," he said afterwards, "was part of any mission of this magnitude."

The rocket, the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), was a simple advance on India's previous space rocket, the SLV 3, made by strapping on two extra first stages. But yesterday, after the strap-on stages had burned out and had been jettisoned, the remaining first stage failed to ignite and the rocket splashed into the Bay of Bengal.

The failure is a bitter blow for India's fledgling space

programme, which has so far carried three 40kg satellites into orbit on the solid-fuelled SLV 3 rocket. Indian space scientists were hoping to move quickly via the ASLV to a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which would include a liquid-fuelled stage, and carry a 1,000kg spacecraft into a sun-synchronous orbit over the poles.

Mr Udupi R. Rao, the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, declared that the ASLV programme would continue, and a schedule for a second launch would be worked out after a detailed analysis of yesterday's failure had been completed.

Indian space scientists have already launched much more

sophisticated satellites than the simple Rohini put up by the SLV 3 or the stretched Rohini, which was to have been orbited yesterday.

They have designed and built, or simply designed, spacecraft for telecommunications and for earth sensing — examining ecology from space — which have been released into orbit by Russian, American, or European rockets.

But the indigenous rocket programme has been a key component of India's self-esteem, and has been read as a warning to potential enemies that it has the capability to launch at least intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

Though the space scientists have constantly firmly denied that the space programme has

any military potential whatsoever, the subliminal threat that the programme implied has now suffered a set-back. The fact that President Zia of Pakistan this week boasted of his country's ability to manufacture an atomic bomb will make the set-back doubly painful.

The Indian space programme is tiny by international standards. Its annual costs are around a quarter of what Britain or Japan spends, and around a tenth of France's expenditure.

The 40-tonne, 23.5-metre rocket was in fact launched two years behind schedule.

Yesterday, it lifted off from the local equivalent of Cape Canaveral, Sriharikota Island

in Andhra Pradesh, 60 miles north of Madras, just after noon local time, having experienced a further slight delay when the computer control imposed a hold-up after a deviation in one parameter.

The deviation had, however, no connection with the mission's later failure, the mission director, Mr S. R. Deb said afterwards.

Mr Gandhi watched from the balcony of the control centre as the white and olive-green rocket rose on top of a plume of orange flame and columns of thick smoke. Initial tracking was done with the assistance of the European Space Agency's station at Carnarvon in Australia, and Weilheim in West Germany.

## Japanese railway goes for gold



Taro Okamoto, a Tokyo artist, with the world's largest gold medal he designed to mark the Japanese Railways' privatization. The 100lb medal will sell for 500 million yen (£2 million).

### High hopes in Macao

## Half a century of capitalism ahead

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The immediate effect of the treaty transferring the administration of Macao to China on December 20 1999 will be very favourable for business, according to Mr Stanley Ho, the multi-millionaire Macao entrepreneur.

Mr Ho, on whom much of Macao's finances depend, is in Lisbon to sign a contract which will give his Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macao (STDM) a controlling 51.9 per cent interest in the Estoril-Sol Group, which has the concession for the Estoril gambling casino and owns several five-star hotels.

He told *The Times* yesterday that he believed Japanese, American, Australian, and other foreign investors would flock to Macao. "We saw the same influx of foreign money in Hong Kong after the agreement with Great Britain," he said.

"Before the agreement between Portugal and China, the future was uncertain. Now the future is settled. We are assured 50 years of capitalist systems — one country, two systems."

He believes that what will happen in the long run after 1999 will depend on what happens at the top of the administration in China.

"If they follow an open policy, as they have been doing recently, business should be even healthier after 1999. As long as China does not interfere in the administration of Macao and Hong Kong and just lets the local residents get on with it, there will be a continuing boom. Both Macao and Hong Kong are the bridge to China for those who want to invest. They are the best door to China with its great opportunities."

Mr Ho does not believe that many of the Macaenses — people of Chinese or Portuguese extraction born in Macao — will leave.

Revenues from Mr Ho's conglomerate, which runs the casinos, race tracks and the boat services to Hong Kong, account for more than one-quarter of the gross domestic product of Macao and cover about 70 per cent of its budget.

Mr Ho has recently shown interest in investing in a private television network in Portugal and in newspapers.

According to unconfirmed reports, Mr Ho's nephew, Mr Alexander Ho, may be appointed Governor of Macao to replace the Portuguese Governor, Senhor Joaquim Pinto Machado.

## Dismissed Hu returns to the limelight

From Robert Grievess, Peking

The sixth National People's Congress, China's "parliament", opens today for a 16-day session at the Great Hall of the People and will feature the public return of Mr Hu Yaobang, who was ousted as General Secretary of the Communist Party more than two months ago.

Mr Hu is a member of the congress's Presidium, as well as one of more than 2,500 accredited delegates, a spokesman, Mr Zhen Tan, said at a press briefing yesterday.

Mr Zhen said that Mr Hu participated in a meeting of the congress's preparatory committee yesterday. When asked what inference should be drawn from Mr Hu's participation in the congress, Mr Zhen replied that Mr Hu's election to the Presidium was "a very good thing".

In recent years the congress and the



Mr Zhao Ziyang, right, and Mr Peng Zhen at yesterday's opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Peking.

concurrent meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference have gained more stature as the central Government has tried to accommodate the groundswell of support for Mr Deng Xiaoping's liberal reforms.

Real power still resides in the party, however, which is why the 13th party

congress, scheduled for October, is considered the more important of the two meetings.

Nevertheless, the deliberations of the National People's Congress, coming on the heels of widespread student demonstrations, the start of an "anti-bourgeois liberalization" campaign, and the dismissal of Mr Hu, will be

watched closely both inside and outside China.

The congress is headed by the dynamic Mr Peng Zhen, the former Mayor of Peking who was the first official to be purged in the Cultural Revolution by Mao Tse-tung. Mr Peng is considered to be building the congress into a political power base.

Today Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister and acting General Secretary of the party, will deliver the customary "government work report".

The report on the State Planning Commission will be delivered by the minister in charge, Mr Song Ping. Mr Song will give the world some idea of whether China's pace of modernization will increase or slacken.

The Finance Minister, Mr Wang Bingqian, will present a report on the state of the country's finances. Foreign reserve figures and China's overall credit rating are two important aspects.

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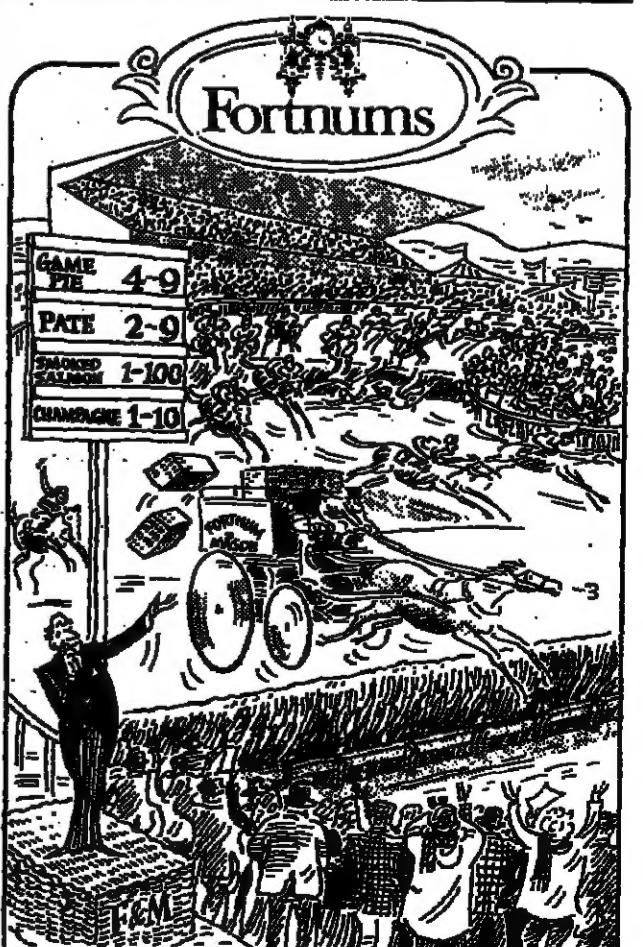
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# The new freedom fighters

## Gorbachov's Russia

The new policy of *glasnost* has allowed a carefully controlled breath of fresh air into the Soviet media. Concluding his series, Christopher Walker finds out where and how the limits are drawn

### Part 3: Publish and be praised

Last week a Soviet-built dam in the central Asian republic of Tadzhikistan burst under the pressure of a mudslide, sending a wall of water crashing on to the village of Sargozan. More than 30 people were killed and the damage was estimated at millions of pounds.

Tragic though the disaster was in human terms, it also had a political significance — the speed with which information about it was provided by Tass, the official Soviet news agency. Until Mikhail Gorbachov came to power in March, 1985, Tass would almost certainly have covered up the tragedy.

"We believe at Tass that we should now report anything that is of public interest," explained Sergei Losev, general director of the Kremlin-directed agency, whose coverage of events inside the country has recently been transformed out of recognition. "In the past we did not cover railway accidents, plane crashes and similar things. We are now reporting them."

The new approach of the official media — and the boost which it has given to circulation figures — is the most tangible result of *glasnost* (openness), perhaps the most potent weapon in Gorbachov's arsenal of measures designed to shake Soviet society out of its demoralized torpor.

That this liberalization has strict limits was shown by last year's imprisonment of the American reporter Nicholas Daniloff, and the more recent attacks on western newsmen trying to cover peaceful street demonstrations by Jewish dissidents. Both were sharp reminders of the fact that Press freedom, in newspaper terms, is restricted to those subjects approved by the Kremlin hierarchy.

Nevertheless, the changes have been remarkable by any standards. "For years, our papers were not only dull, they were not even believable," one Soviet intellectual in her fifties said. "Now you actually look forward to reading them: you never know what they are going to be digging up next. Radio and television have

improved too, but not to the same extent."

Students of the communist media maintain that the single most important development occurred in January, when *Pravda* published an unexpected front-page admission by Viktor Chebrikov, head of the feared KGB secret police, that one of his officers had been fired for ordering the illegal arrest of a reporter investigating local power abuses.

Drug addiction, teenage prostitution, AIDS, chronic deficiencies in vital services, corruption and a dramatic attempt to hijack a Soviet aircraft on an internal flight are among the subjects recently covered by journalists, who now see their profession as the front line in the struggle against bureaucratic inertia.

This month, for example, the Soviet magazine *Oknyabr* denounced the crimes of Stalin with the publication of one of the most important works in Russian poetry, Anna Akhmatova's previously



Back to life: visitors at the reopened Novodevichy cemetery, closed by Brezhnev after the ousted Nikita Khrushchev, who favoured reform, was buried there.

banned *Regulom* collection, which bitterly condemns the torture, deportations and mass executions of Stalin.

And on Monday, *Pravda* officially discounted the widely accepted rumour that Yuri Gagarin, the world's first cosmonaut, was drunk when he was killed testing a new Soviet jet fighter 19 years ago. The long-delayed publication of a report of a government inquiry into the crash. Bok Akhmatova's previously

Soviet authorities for failing to recognize the spirit of *glasnost*.

Senior members of the Party are now busy drafting a new press and information law amid rumours that serious disagreements have arisen about the extent to which the new freedoms should be enshrined in the statutes. Addressing this month's congress of the 85,000-strong journalists' union, its leader, Viktor Afanasyev, the 64-

year-old editor of *Pravda*, warned newsmen that they still faced "restricted zones" despite *glasnost*. He singled out bureaucrats behind the Soviet space programme as the worst offenders.

But he warned western journalists: "We are a Party newspaper, our task is the propaganda of the policy of our party and the organization of the masses for the fulfilment of party decisions."

Soviet television, which can

count on 120 million viewers for its main evening news programme, *Vremya* (Time), has responded to Gorbachov's media revolution, and the shake-up in the presentation of the news has been more extensive than many Kremlin-watchers expected.

The test of the new approach has been coverage of the seven-year-old war in Afghanistan, formerly conducted as though the Red Army never got involved in

any fighting. All that has changed since the arrival in Kabul of Mikhail Gorbachov, a flamboyant war correspondent for a State TV station. He has nerves of steel and sufficient clout to present footage of the type of bloody guerrilla warfare in which the 115,000 Soviet troops are involved.

Although there is yet no equivalent in the Soviet Union of the mass disillusionment caused in the US by coverage of the Vietnam war, western observers believe that Gorbachov's open coverage has sown doubts in Soviet minds, as well as creating a new type of military hero. One of the best known, Russian Ashev, chief of staff of the Motorized Infantry, said: "I was together with Leschinski in many complicated situations. He is not simply a brave man, he is a fighter."

Outside the confines of the media, *glasnost* has proved a refreshingly wide-ranging concept, affecting many of the more preposterous aspects of the obsessive secrecy for which the Soviet Union has long been notorious.

In Moscow, one of the most popular manifestations has been the opening of the historic Novodevichy cemetery, closed by Brezhnev because of fears that too many people would flock to the grave of Nikita Khrushchev, ousted in 1964 because of an earlier effort to reform the hide-bound communist system.

Campaigning for the move, one angry Muscovite wrote in an article earlier this year: "This is probably the only cemetery in the world where entrance is forbidden."

## End of an old pledge

Guernsey votes today to let Mr Gladstone and the taxpayers of Britain off the hook

Promises are the bread and butter of politicians, but today the people of Guernsey are set to bury one of the strangest and oldest pledges that of William Gladstone in 1872 to pay for the upkeep of Alderney's 2,850ft breakwater "in perpetuity".

True, the Channel Islanders never wanted the breakwater in the first place. The Victorian mole was completed in 1865 to provide safe refuge for the British fleet at a time of imminent French invasion. But as the threat of invasion disappeared, rumblings of discontent from London grew about the drain on the government purse.

Last year, the old Prime Minister's undertaking cost the British taxpayer £200,000. If, as expected, the States of Deliberation (the Guernsey Parliament) votes today to shoulder the entire maintenance costs, it will be welcome news.

The 2,000 loyal, yet fiercely independent, islanders have actually been helping towards the upkeep costs of the breakwater since 1978 when they set aside a small "contributions" fund with a first payment of £5,000.

Not a lot, some would say, but it represented £2.50 per head of the population and that, in relative terms, was equal to a UK contribution of about £125 million to the upkeep of Brighton Pier. Since then, the islanders have steadily increased their contribution, and last year put their signatures to a cheque for £15,000.

But the Falklands war led to a Home Office "suggestion", followed by a request that all the Channel Islands should consider contributing towards the UK's defence programme, and the cost of their international representation.

After a year or so of discussion, in efficient Jersey the idea of a specialized TA force has emerged the favourite, plus an interim cash payment of £300,000.

Nothing so grandiose could be contemplated by Guernsey, but with Alderney within the bailiwick, consideration was given to taking over responsibility for the breakwater. The idea won Home Office approval as it was coupled with Guernsey's willingness to make over all fees collected for the issue of passports and a sum to cover the cost of the island's representation at international forums.

This is the package the States of Deliberation will vote on today.

Frank Eggleston



In the news: Viktor Afanasyev, union leader and *Pravda* editor

"Our task is the propaganda of the policy of our party and the organization of the masses"

### WRITERS WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD

Nowhere have the reforms of Mikhail Gorbachov and his literary-minded wife been more warmly appreciated than in the repressed world of the Soviet arts, now enjoying the heady excitement of what the maverick poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko has termed a "renaissance".

In literature, theatre and the cinema, open season has been declared on the bureaucrats, who have seen their power of censorship whittled away in a manner reminiscent of the previous thaw under Khrushchev in the 1950s and early sixties. "We are well aware of the similarities and that is why we are nervous: we remember what happened to him," one Soviet writer said. "Our hope is that Gorbachov is both cleverer and a better politician."

The thaw was accelerated last month when Sergei Zalygin, editor-in-chief of the influential literary journal *Novy Mir* (New World), announced that it would begin publishing Boris Pasternak's celebrated novel *Dr Zhivago* in



Boris Pasternak: once labelled a "pig" — now honoured as a hero

installments from the beginning of 1987. Once described by a senior government figure as "a pig" and dismissed by an official of the writers' union as "a literary whore hired and kept in America's anti-Soviet brothel", the 1958 Nobel Prize winner heads the list of previously banned Soviet men of letters whose place in national life has been restored.

In addition to the impending publication of his tragic novel of events surrounding the 1917

Revolution (printed copies of which have been circulating here for years), a museum is being established in Pasternak's honour.

Other writers who have been rehabilitated include the poet Nikolai Gumilyov, shot as a counter-revolutionary in 1921 (and a particular favourite of Mrs Gorbachov); Oleg Mandelstam, the gifted Jewish poet who died in Stalin's terror camps; and the Russian-born émigré author Vladimir Nabokov.

From the start, Gorbachov has bid for the support of the intelligentsia. He also appears to have a genuine interest in improving the arts, a pearl in the Soviet crown compared with its ramshackle economy. It was therefore probably no coincidence that his most eloquent plea for support was addressed last year to a group of Soviet writers. "Society is ripe for a change. If we back off now, society will not agree to a return," he told them. "We have to make the process irreversible. If we do not, who will? If not now, when?"

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## Rich harvest for the "Sunflowers"

The richest collectors and museums in the world will have their representatives at Christie's next Monday night when the television lights go up to record the sale of a painting of "Sunflowers" by Van Gogh. It is confidently expected to become the most expensive picture ever sold at auction. Christie's are talking of a price above £10 million; others talk of even more.

The auction will be the climax of the dispersal of one of the greatest collections of impressionist paintings formed in this country. Maybe the greatest. Had the Chester Beatty collection, of which this is the final masterpiece, and the Courtauld Collection ever been put side by side, it is hard to say which would have won.

Sir Alfred Chester Beatty.

Next Monday a Van Gogh is expected to fetch £10 million at auction. Its sale signals the end of a famous collection.

born in New York in 1875, was a self-made millionaire in the days when mining was synonymous with adventure. In *The Life and Times of Sir Alfred Chester Beatty*, A.J. Wilson recounts how he set out for Denver, Colorado, at the age of 23, with \$200 in his pocket. Travelling by stage coach with a revolver in his boot he opened gold, silver and copper mines across the American west and Mexico. He came to London in 1911

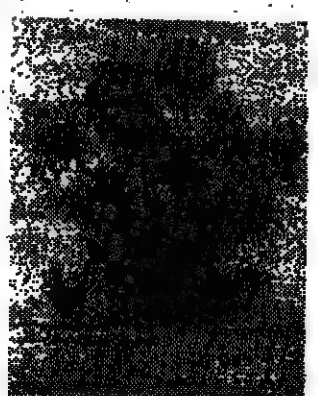
on the death of his first wife, loved it and stayed. From then on he acted as a promoter and financier of mining adventures from his English base, building up not only his fortune but also probably the finest collection of Oriental manuscripts ever formed.

The superb collection of impressionists of which the "Sunflowers" was a part, however, was the work of his second wife Edith Dunn, acclaimed in her day as one of the 10 most beautiful women in America. They were married in 1913 and set up house in the domed mansion built for the Maharaja of Baroda in Kensington Palace Gardens. In 1928 Beatty gave Edith a cheque for £100,000, and advised her to concentrate on impressionists.

Even at 1930s prices she must have overspent. Her masterpieces have gone to great American collectors. She owned Cezanne's "Boy with a Red Waistcoat" which now belongs to David Rockefeller, as does her Manet "Still life with Brocade".

She had half a dozen Seurat landscapes and seascapes, now spread around American museums and private collections. Paul Mellon has her Van Gogh tree trunk as well as her Degas scene scene and her Degas dancers. Norton Simon has her "Tulips" by Cezanne and the famous Degas picture of a girl ironing, "La Repasseuse".

A few of Edith's pictures are left, however, and the nation may still get a look in. A Cezanne landscape, "Allee à Chantilly" is currently hanging on loan at the National Gallery. Two other paintings were withdrawn from the Gallery at the same time as the "Sunflowers", having hung there since 1937.

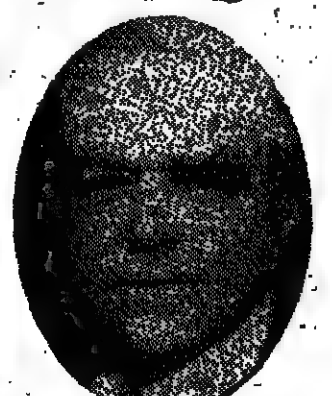


Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" and collector Alfred Chester Beatty

L'Atelier". Once the "Sunflowers" are sold and the tax liability can be calculated, these pictures may be coded to the nation in lieu of tax.

Sir Alfred passed on his big mining conglomerate, Selection Trust, to his son Alfred Chester Beatty junior, known as "Chet". It is the death of Chet's widow, Helen, that has brought the "Sunflowers" onto the market. The painting was first offered to the National Gallery but negotiations foundered since the liability to estate duty was smaller than the "tax exempt" value of the picture. The National Gallery was not prepared to buy it, since they already have another of Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" series.

The executors are engaged in a juggling act on behalf of Chet's daughter, Mrs Sarah Thomson Jones and her two children by her marriage to the Earl of Warwick, Lord Brooke and Lady Charlotte Fraser.



Edith Dunn Beatty

The great pictures have gone, however. The collector herself, Edith Chester Beatty, died in 1952. Her husband, Sir Alfred, deeply disgruntled with the British socialist government had moved from

Geraldine Norman

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## WEDNESDAY PAGE

# Sold on the perks of the trade

Luxury cars, huge salaries and share schemes are often used by firms to get their man. But are women receiving a fair share of working life's little extras? Lee Rodwell reports

How would you feel if a prospective employer offered you a £150,000 golden hello, a salary increase of £40,000 a year and the choice of virtually any car you wanted? Not all companies go to such extreme lengths as this City firm (which does not wish to reveal its identity) to recruit key members of senior staff. But it is becoming increasingly common for remuneration packages to be used to attract high-fliers of either sex — packages which may include cars, pension schemes and share options.

Indeed, City types are not the only ones to have such carrots dangled in front of them. Alan Paul, the hairdressing franchise group, is now offering a Porsche as part of the pay package for top stylists, while the London borough of Camden is seeking to attract computer staff with incentive payments of up to £3,000.

But are women really getting their share of the perks, and, more to the point, are the perks on offer a real incentive? Would they rather have a creche than a Porsche?

Helen Murtis is a pay consultant with chartered accountants Peat Marwick, whose own package includes a car and a pension scheme. She also receives a free lunch or sandwiches in the office, reasonable holidays and, something she believes many women — particularly those with children — value most of all, "a certain amount of flexibility and a helpful and co-operative environment".

Women at a senior level tend not to place creches high on their list of perks — for the simple reason that most have already had to make their own child-care arrangements in order to pursue their careers. What these working mothers would like to see is a change in the tax laws to make nannies wages tax deductible.

Murtis suspects that women are not so good as men at asking for and getting what they want. "For instance, women tend not to appreciate the value of pension schemes until they are in their forties and they lose out because by this stage they are less likely to have acquired as much service as men as a result of career breaks".

Pension schemes are fairly widespread, as are medical insurance schemes, with membership usually extended to relatively low levels in the employee hierarchy.

But other perks, like company cars, are either given to those who need them because the job involves a lot of travelling, or are awarded as part of a job's status. And share

options tend to operate only at fairly senior levels. As Mary Delmahoy, of Hay Management Consultants, explains: "Benefits are awarded by status and/or salary level. The problem is that many women have not got to that level in the company."

Ellynn Sears, of Carrer Urban & Partners, also management consultants, agrees: "Women are still earning less than men, so fewer are getting to the level where they can negotiate packages in the same way a man can."

Women may also be uncomfortable about spelling out what they think they are worth. Steve Palmer, of the Institute of Personnel Management, says: "I suspect women don't take pay packages into account as much as men do and that they are less assertive. Women still tend to be more self-effacing when they go for jobs. But I think this is changing."

Murtis believes that women who have reached executive level are definitely looking for material incentives like cars. "You get the odd one who doesn't want a car and would rather negotiate on pay because she lives in Kensington, her husband has a large company car, and they would have to pay another £60 for a parking permit. But quite a few of those red Porsches in the City belong to women."

Murtis argues that different parts of a pay package may appeal to a woman at different stages in her life. "Health insurance can be important for a working mother if the children are included. If they have to go into hospital, it can be arranged at a time you can manage."

"A clothes allowance has psychological benefits. The fact that the money has been put aside for a particular purpose makes it different. You feel you've got a right to spend £150 on a suit instead of buying socks for the children."

But she also feels that many women look for less concrete benefits, such as flexibility of working hours and a positive attitude to maternity leave. "Flexible hours have helped many women, but at executive level it can be more difficult," she says. "It is nice to work for a firm where you can be honest and say you want to go to a school meeting. It is also comforting to find that a firm has a policy on maternity leave. Most women plan to have some kind of career break and that kind of thing can be just as important as any perk."



## CARE ABOUT SHARES

Elizabeth Campbell (left), 28, is new business and marketing director at Sutcliffe Haves & Associates, graphic designers. In her former job, running a consultancy which found names for a variety of things from merchant banks to packets of crisps, she had what was called a "total remuneration package". This consisted of "a given salary plus benefits up to a certain amount which included a car, a pension and health care". The new job offered a better salary and a better package deal. So how much did the perks matter?

According to Campbell: "Obviously the salary's the most important thing. But although the car didn't matter so much in the past, it did this time round. Before I had an Escort Cabriolet. This time I held out for a BMW."

"A car is certainly important for me. I wouldn't like to own my own car. I think that would be a terrific responsibility. But of the perks the share option was the most important. It means that if we launch on the USM (Unlisted Securities Market) or the stock market, I will have an option to buy a certain number of shares. I hope we do launch. I want to buy the shares and see them increase. It's partly a statement of faith but it's also nice to have equity in the company."

"I'm not terribly bothered by pensions. Like quite a lot of women I have a terrible attitude towards long-term planning. You tend to think 'who needs a pension anyway?' I'm guilty of it. I think men worry more, having to think harder about making provisions for themselves and possibly a family."



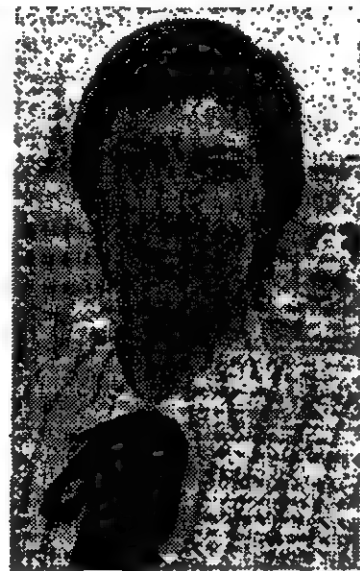
## MINI INCENTIVES

Helen O'Neill (above), aged 31 and married with three children, is advertising manager of a Northamptonshire magazine. She believes that "perks are very important." I recently had a big battle to get the car I wanted — they wanted to give me a Sierra or an Escort. I wanted a Mini Mayfair.

"I don't use the car for my family, my husband has a large car and we use that. The Mini is an early little car. I can park it anywhere, and as I'm only 4ft 11in it suits me. If a firm values you and you're doing a good job, you should be able to have what you want, within reason."

"Apart from the car, one of the best perks I have is the use of a gym which is also owned by the company."

O'Neill also has strong views about other perks that she would welcome and some that she would not take into account. "I'm not really interested in pensions or share options. I'm much more interested in the here and now. Health schemes wouldn't be a tremendous incentive either, although if it was offered it would be fine by me."



## THE JOB'S THE THING

Teresa Stankiewicz (left) is an assistant manager at Touche Ross & Co., chartered accountants. She is 38, married with two children and is not particularly impressed by perks. "It's the job that's most important."

There is, however, an exception to her rule — a good company pension scheme. When Stankiewicz moved back into the private sector two years ago she was offered a number of jobs. "One offer included a car, but it wasn't a relevant factor when it came to making my choice. The company would have paid all the bills, but I'm not sure how useful a car would have been as I commute to town by train. The main thing was that I liked the look of this job better than the others."

"I was also offered another job which would have paid a lot more, but because it did not come with a company pension I turned it down. I could have set up my own pension plan but these are never as good as an occupational scheme because you don't get the employer's contribution."

"The Touche Ross scheme is a particularly good one for women. It provides a widow's pension, which is a big plus, as well as giving you life assurance and disability insurance. Perhaps I think this way because I'm an accountant, or maybe it's because my mother was widowed in her early forties, and although she returned to work she could not work for long enough to earn a good pension."

"A lot of women who get divorced in middle age, and have been relying on their husband's pension, also get caught out. I would have thought that any woman would appreciate that a good pension scheme is worth having."

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# This is your lifestyle

A new book has designs on defining our 'post-punk' cultural boom

Swinging London probably ground to a halt when an American journalist came up with the name. Before that the city had been quite lively, a fairly laid-back place to hang out, as it were; afterwards it was riddled with self-consciousness.

So the publication of *Street Style: British Design in the 80s* — a book which sets out to "chart influential contemporary designers and design ideas in a period which has been described as post-punk culture" — almost certainly signals the end of the latest groovy phase. This is a pity as most people will be unaware that it ever happened. In the 1960s the very idea of London was sold and promoted nationally and then internationally. But the audience for all the hype in the 1980s has been smaller, richer and barely visible outside Covent Garden, let alone north of Watford.

Although the author, Catherine McDermott, is right to draw attention to the level of creativity in clothes, furniture and commercial design in London in the 1980s, she is wrong to start from the belief that it has anything in common with what happened in the 1960s — which she barely covers in her text. This time round it is smart, cosmopolitan and expensive — yuppie — rather than egalitarian, cheap and democratic — hippy, in fact.

Her heroes and heroines, such as Vivienne Westwood and Katharine Hammett, may make much of the working-class, street-level inspiration of their clothes as well as adopting political postures. But their real popular impact has happened at several removes while they have dwelt in the golden groves of London's West End.

Yet still there is the earnest determination to glue this latest manifestation on to the supposed "facts" of British post-war cultural history. This history, as filtered through the coarse weave of Peter York's prose or any number of bad books, says that some time after the Second World War a lot of babies were born. They grew up richer than their parents and deeply influenced by America. They created a new style and new music which burst forth in the 1960s, was resurrected by punk in the 1970s and re-emerged on the streets, in the home and in newsgroups in the 1980s.

The trouble with this is that it is so boring it cannot be the

whole story. And a careful study of the bibliography at the back of this book reveals that it isn't. For example, in the 1950s section, a choice of "realist working-class novels" is listed: the authors include Stan Barstow, Neil Dunn, Colin Naughton, Alan Sillitoe and Arnold Wesker. This is a fairly representative selection of the second-rank of the day, better were Iris Murdoch, William Golding, Angus Wilson, Laurence Durrell and Wyndham Lewis.

In other words, the cultural history we are being asked to accept as an explanation for Britain's current design fecundity is a highly-doctored version, an easily-swallowed middle-brow care-all. In its defence you can say that it is only being used to write the history of marketing to a mass audience — and that does consist of a series of crude simplifications. But to admit that is to reduce the importance of design as a creative activity, and that is precisely the opposite of what this book is trying to do.

The truth is that design is not simply about marketing



Solid state: part of Ron Arad's "Concrete Stereo, 1985"

any more than music is simply about rock 'n' roll. The decisions designers take about the cut of their cloth or the shape of their chairs can be as culturally significant as the decisions poets take about the length of their lines or painters about the size of their canvases. In the case of the best people represented in this book — the furniture designer Ron Arad or the architectural partnership of Powell-Tuck, Connor & Orefelt — this is evidently the case. But even the worst deserve better than the old yarns about teenage affluence, American jeans and Swinging London.

Isolating design as a merely populist form is asking for trouble. In refusing to dig deeper into the real cultural history of the post-war period, it consigns the best to the same fate as the worst — to be broken on the wheel of fashion.

Bryan Appleyard

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Street Style: British Design in the 80s, by Catherine McDermott is published on Friday by the Design Council at £12.50.

## Read all about it

Thousands of children around the country have learned to "say no" thanks to Michele Elliot and her *Kidspower* programme, which can be arranged for use in primary school classes; along the way, she has listened to countless stories from the children themselves of bullying, obscene phone calls and abuse. Some of these real tales have been transformed into lively adventures and dilemmas faced by *The Willow Street Kids* (Piccolo, £1.75), characters invented to spread the message about ways of staying

## & BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

safe in the 1980s for children up to 13 years old.

## Birth daze

If your baby is clever enough to be born this Sunday — *Mothering Sunday* — nappy makers Peapod will send you a gift box, worth £25. Send a copy of the baby's birth certificate (dated March 23, 1987) with your name and address to Peapod/Mother's Day Offer, Peapod (UK) Ltd,

Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 0EL, and they will dispatch the box, complete with practical items for new mothers including 100 disposable nappies for newborns.

## Crafty course

Balancing book-keeping skills with face-making (or pottery, or patchwork) can prove less than a course at London's Kensington Town Hall next week (April 2-3) aims to teach artists and artisans how to handle money matters and put together a business plan. Details from Patti Winkley, Course Co-ordinator, Training by Design, 6 Spencer Road, London W3 (01-993 3455).

Josephine Fairley

# Lesson in morals

Schools are responding differently to pressure for more moral education

Two very different schools recently had to face up to some group misbehaviour. At one school, a foursome of 14-year-old girls had broken the strictest rule in the school: they had gone into the nearby town without permission. At the other, a gang of six 16-year-old boys were openly destroying any movable object that lay in their path.

The girls owed up to their "crime" within 24 hours and a tearful interview with which all four promised faithfully never again to cause her anxiety. The boys, when identified, denied everything point-blank (they had been caught in the act) — except one, who said, "When I've done something wrong I believe in owning up. That's what my dad told me to do."

The girls were at Roedean School, where the headmistress, Ann Longley, believes that building moral fibre — the new key expression in the Conservative Party's philosophy towards school leavers — is a vital part of her curriculum which parents expect, even demand, her to impress upon the girls. Her moral education programme involves years of close contact with house staff and stress on leadership and teamwork.

The boys were at City of Portsmouth Boys' School, a respected comprehensive with a firm head teacher and a tradition of no nonsense. The deputy head, Roy Madd, believes that teachers, who see pupils for only a few hours a day, can do nothing to put added moral fibre into the school diet unless, like the solitary boy who owned up, children have been taught the difference between right and wrong by their parents.

Teachers are under pressure to inject more morality into their curriculum; sex education must make clear reference to family values. Employers complain that teenagers lack persistence and

any idea of self-regulation and these days 15-year-olds are the largest single age group in crime statistics. But the teachers do not see themselves as primarily moral educators. Their training has failed to prepare them for the role. Three years of teacher training may include at the most three lectures on moral education. Young teachers have virtually no training in pastoral care. According to David Ingram, head of the Centre for Social

leave school, so long as they believe it through being true to themselves."

Ward's self-imposed role of impartial onlooker in the classroom is reflected in most state schools. It sounds lofty but in Ingram's view, teachers are over-stressing "skills" and facts of life, skirting values and emotions.

Mudd, the deputy head, is more of a traditionalist. "We have pupils who are downright amoral," he says. "They are underhand, devious and dishonest. If I challenge their parents, I am told: 'That's what all children are like.' The parents genuinely believe that their child's appalling behaviour is normal. Twenty-five years ago the same working-class people would have supported me in scolding their sons. Now they undermine everything I try to do."

One rural comprehensive near Banbury, Chenderit School, has successfully tackled the issue by restructuring the curriculum to put moral education at the core of school life instead of the fringes. Even PE is planned to fit in with the children's five moral and social education lessons every week. For example, group exercises in the gym end with a discussion on team support, broadening into an exploration of how professional teams help each other.

The scheme was devised by Ingram's department, which will lose its government part-funding (£40,000 a year) in August. Under pressure from local authorities to devise more programmes, Ingram would like to see the government putting its money where its moral mouth is.

But the state system cannot hope for the same level of nurturing which Longley and other top private school heads offer. The Roedean system begins with hand-picked pupils; state schools must take what they are given.

Sarah Thompson

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Packing for Proctor

Billerica Tories may spot some new faces at their annual general meeting on Saturday, which is expected to decide what action to take over the future of Harvey Proctor, their beleaguered MP. Some of his more devoted supporters, it seems, are leaving nothing to chance. A 21st birthday reception at the Commons on Monday evening for Andrew Rosindell, chairman of the Greater London Young Conservatives, was attended by two gentlemen purporting to be members of the South West Essex Monday Club. My source insists they busied themselves by offering to enrol guests sympathetic to Proctor's cause to Billerica Conservative Association. Admission price: mere £1. Proctor's new agent in Billerica, Jill Schneider - her predecessor resigned over the growing rumours about his private life - refused to discuss the AGM. "It's private," she told me.

### Harem Maiden

King Fahd's visit to Britain is an appropriate moment to recall his tribute to Mrs Thatcher when he was crown prince, in the mid-1970s. After first meeting her, he ordered his court poet to write a verse which included the lines: *Her skin was smooth as ivory, Her cheeks as rosy as an English rose.*

And her eyes as lovely as a mare's. *Her figure is more attractive than the figure of any cherished wife.*

Or coveted concubine. Though it surely loses something in translation, his laureate's compliments stand comparison with Mitterrand's: "She has the eyes of Caligula and mouth of Marilyn Monroe."

### In perspective

Peter Wright's wily Australian lawyer, Malcolm Turnbull, soon to visit Britain, is not letting his fame in this country go to his head. According to an Australian newspaper he said recently: "It's like being a celebrity on Mars or a famous actor in Peru."



BARRY FANTONI  
"I love 'Allo 'Allo, Neville prefers the way they hire and fire director generals'"

### Black market

Neil Kinnock's ideological purity knows no bounds. Last year Blackwell published his blueprint for Britain, *Making our Way*, with customary diligence, sending its agents to the four corners of the globe with copies. To his horror, Kinnock learnt that one of these corners was South Africa. Considerably chastened, Blackwell has now agreed to halt sales there - probably no more than 75 copies - and donate Kinnock's royalties to the African National Congress.

### Well-groomed

Not all royal weddings are planned with the meticulous detail and timing that attend our own - as Prince Charles will discover when he visits Swaziland this week. King Mswati III, the 19-year-old former Sherborne public schoolboy, whose father had dozens of brides and 160 children, was due to marry for the first time this month. Now the wedding has been postponed to allow "more time for preparation" according to the prime minister's office. Swaziland's equivalent of Sir Alastair Burnet must be at a loss to know when to book his holiday.

### Put out

A frisson of pride must have run down Matthew Parris's spine when the first question came up on the computer quiz game in the London Weekend Television bar: "Who is the presenter of *Weekend Update*?" Imagine the *WW* anchor man's horror when the choice of possible answers came up - Alastair Burnet, Robin Day or Brian Walden. Parris manfully plumped for Brian. I am told.

More euphemistic job descriptions: From Tumbler, "theologist" (chimney sweep); from Johannesburg, "transparent wall maintenance engineer" (window cleaner).

### No man's land

The Irish government's decision to place an as yet undetermined statue on the site of the memorial to Nelson blown up by the IRA in O'Connell Street, Dublin, has become a source of speculation for the city's wits. My man there tells me the real reason Nelson will not again grace the street is that there are enough statues of adulterers in O'Connell Street already - including those of O'Connell himself and Charles Parnell.

PHS

Andrew McEwen sounds opinion on SDI withdrawal and Woodrow Wyatt warns against anti-US rhetoric

## Kinnock's threat to high-tech

Mr Kinnock's plan to stop British participation in the US Star Wars project could make it an expensive moral gesture in terms of Britain's future as a high technology nation.

One point widely mentioned by defence experts in and outside Whitehall is that British abandonment of its hard-won foot in the door of space-defence research would harm peaceful and as yet unimagined future manufacturing industries. At a time when virtually every British research and development project outside the defence field is chronically underfunded, it would be far more than a psychological blow. The damage to the next generation's prospects could be out of all proportion to the mere \$34 million-worth of contracts which the Pentagon has so far given to Britain.

Just as American high technology industries profit now from the technological spin-offs of the 1960s space programme, so the research needed to bring Star Wars to fruition should provide the intellectual spark for the products of the next century.

A glance at the contracts already

awarded gives some idea of the potential. Five Ministry of Defence research establishments are handling American work involving advanced computer software, communications systems and electromagnetic launchers: a contract awarded to the Atomic Energy Authority focuses on neutral particle beam research. The MoD has sub-contracted work worth \$17 million to private firms, providing employment for hundreds of skilled workers.

This is seen in Whitehall as only the seeds of British involvement. Dr Stanley Orman, director general of the SDI Participation Office in the MoD, believes that Britain can and should win new business at an annual rate of \$200 million a year. If Labour won a June election - about the time the next batch of contracts is expected - and remained in office for a full five years, the cumulative loss could be as much as \$1 billion.

A Conservative Central Office official said: "After all, Labour's talk about the need to keep Britain in the forefront of technology, it is hypocritical to withhold opportu-

nities in such a promising field." Another pointed out that withdrawal from SDI could lead to the Pentagon reviewing contracts for conventional weapons research.

Some comfort for Mr Kinnock came from a respected academic who described the decision as a blow from which British science could recover. He drew a distinction between contracts awarded on a government-to-government basis and those given direct to British industry, pointing out that French companies had received SDI work even though their government was not involved. (Of the \$34 million-worth of work awarded to Britain so far, \$14 million has been in direct contracts with British companies.)

Seen in isolation, rather than in the context of Labour's overall defence policy, dropping out of SDI would probably not lead to a Pentagon refusal to award conventional weapons contracts, the academic said, because Britain would be in a strong position to hit back. "The value of the work done by American firms for Britain is greater than that done by British

firms for the US". But if Labour's broader defence policies caused a serious rift with Washington, the harm could be much greater.

Under the present government the MoD has vigorously sought business for Britain from the Pentagon. Dr Orman, who acts and dresses like a high-powered businessman, would not be out of place in an American boardroom. He has sent MoD scouts to obtain advance information of every SDI-related contract that might be in the offing and has circulated details regularly to hundreds of British firms.

His bullishness on Britain's future prospects is considered over-optimistic by one adviser to the Commons select committee on defence, but he does have supporters. One expert pointed out that five of the contracts awarded to the British government are for studying ways to extend SDI to protect Western Europe too. Such a plan, if put into effect, would provide tremendous scope for high-tech industries in Britain and in other member countries of the EEC.

## Slanging that has to stop

Today Neil Kinnock and Denis Healey leave for America in an attempt to persuade President Reagan and his countrymen that Britain without its own nuclear deterrent and with a determination to remove all American nuclear weapons based here would still be a valuable ally and remain the prop of Nato. The timing might have been better if this week Labour had not published a new policy statement, *Europe: New Detente*. This calls for cuts in conventional forces which until now Labour had implacably declared it would increase to compensate for the abandonment of nuclear weapons.

Labour is the explicit anti-American party. Mr Kinnock, when he went to Cuba, embraced and praised Castro. Labour leads the attack on Washington's policies on El Salvador, Nicaragua and elsewhere. It denounced Mrs Thatcher's permission for US aircraft stationed in Britain to be used in the Libyan air raid. When Kinnock mildly rebukes Moscow over Afghanistan it is usually in conjunction with a slap at America for "trying to prevent communists and their allies taking over in Nicaragua".

Americans fear a Labour government because they know it would mean effectively the end of Nato and the special relationship between Britain and the US. Being the principal defender of the West, and its values is a lonely role which brings little love from those defended; Britain ceasing to be her stout friend would be a grievous blow to America. Labour sees no difference in awfulness between Russia and the US and its stance shows that it is more prepared to trust Moscow with nuclear weapons than Washington. Labour eagerly accepts Gorbachev as a harbinger of a new Russia against which we need little defence.

However, anti-Americanism, though made specially its own by Labour leaders, spreads wider than the Labour party. Charles Price, the US ambassador in London, made a remarkable speech to the European Atlantic Group on March 12. "America the violent, America the cruel, America the inept have all become everyday images in Europe." Of a minority of the European elite, he said: "America, in their opinion, cannot discharge competently its international obligations because Americans lack the necessary perspective, training and experience." He ended in opinion polls "a low regard for American policies and a deep suspicion of American motives".

This promotes a feeling among Americans that if Europe is so ungrateful and indifferent to American help, perhaps the time has come to think of withdrawing and leaving the Europeans to get on with it. "We maintain a third of a million troops in Europe and this costs us over \$120 billion a year, about 40 per cent of our defence budget," the ambassador said.

With its huge balance of payments deficit, the US would be materially much better off without that burden. Many Americans may also think that, though it has been their habit to speak of Europe as their first line of defence, this is not necessarily true. If American

nuclear weapons were removed from Europe altogether it is unlikely that Russia would run the risk of bombarding the US with inter-continental ballistic missiles for fear of the devastating retaliation. The American presence in Europe, apart from our value as a trading partner, must be largely a matter of sentimental affection for the old home countries. And if that sentimental affection is not reciprocated...

Coincidentally Sir Geoffrey Howe in the week following Mr Price's speech addressed the Royal Institute of International Relations in Brussels. He spoke of 240 million Americans are defending 300 million Europeans against 280 million Russians.

"I do not mean to suggest that the United States administration, and indeed America more widely, do not remain fully committed to Nato strategy... but we need to be alert to trends in American thinking which might diminish our security." Sir Geoffrey referred to the evidence of the trauma caused in Western Europe by the Reykjavik summit and the unexpected swift movement towards a treaty removing medium-range missiles from Europe. These are the missiles that Mr Callaghan and other European leaders asked to be put in Europe eight years ago as a shield against the deployment of equivalent Soviet missiles.

America has to be encouraged to ensure that any departure of its medium-range missiles is so arranged that Western European countries are not in the same danger that their leaders in 1979 thought they would be. The Labour leaders' vociferous and oft-repeated dislike of America is not precisely the right approach. Nor is their intention to neuter Nato. Mrs Thatcher's mission to Moscow this weekend is delicate. She will not wish to offend American susceptibilities by decrying a genuine attempt to reduce nuclear armaments but she cannot afford to let Moscow think that we have become a soft touch.

Hence the importance Mr Gorbachev gives to including at a later stage the question of eliminating the British and French nuclear deterrents. With a diminution of American nuclear weapons in Europe these become more significant. It would not need many British and French nuclear weapons to make a nasty mess of Russia if there were need.

In his Brussels speech Sir Geoffrey described British and French nuclear forces as a "major contribution to European security". He suggested that as Europe no longer dominates America thinking as much as it did in the past the Europeans should be talking together about real co-operation on a credible European defence should the Americans become increasingly disenchanted "in the longer term". The danger of this occurring before Europe was ready would be considerably less if all who believe their opinions worth pronouncing reduced the slanging and augmented the appreciation in their observations on American policy. The danger would be heightened alarmingly if Labour won.

Paul Jennings

## When only one name will do

Events conspire to confirm the belief that people are either born with the right names or grow into them: indeed are moulded by them. By events, I mean language and Greenwich, etc.

More of them later. Meanwhile, is it not extraordinary how one always knows what a woman called Pearl will be like before one meets her, and the *Is* who has ever met an unpleasant Kenneth? And what a lot of admirable friends I have called Norman. Many common names have variants to suit their owners. William is big and honest and open, like the late lamented William Clark, *Observer* diplomatic correspondent, then secretary to Eden, then something very grand in the World Bank and a passionate Third World helper; but Will is a gaunt, silent man, very often a shepherd. Billy is a jolly little round man always welcome at the pub. Bill is always good with his hands, Willie, with a scarf and a perpetual fag-end, is vaguely connected with horse-racing or snooker. Willy is German and, unless his surname happens to be Brandt, up to no good in places like Paris or Monte Carlo.

In *The Spectator* Peter Fleming, under his pseudonym Strix, wrote a wonderful piece in which he said that while having no doubt that Fina was all that a petrol should be, there was an ineradicable sense of thinness about the name which would forever inhibit him from buying it. And yet, he continued, what could be more remote from the idea of cleanliness than tar; but Wright's Coal Tar Soap seemed to him almost, to embody some Platonic idea of the ultimate, pure cleanliness.

What could be more appropriate than left-wing Mitterand, with its aggressively lower middle-class resonance, perhaps also with the minus-bared-for-punch male fighting necessity. But Charles is right-wing (Charles, Chic, vague there on tooth since 1963: a

suggestions of Armagnac). Even Thatcher suggests the do-it-yourself cottage industry which we must turn after the Korsets and such have beaten us in all the heavy industries. How complete her triumph would be (and no nation can truly hate a person it so often calls Maggie) if old thatching and new hi-tech could be magically married!

Some commercial names are divinely appropriate. What could you possibly do, if your name was Seron, but make a good name for a sausage, as sausage? Wasn't there a British Electricity Board called Lord Gridley, a chief economist at the National Economic Development Office called Michael Paine? Then there are (or certainly were) the Belfast printing firm called Reid and Wright, the Kidderminster estate agents called Doolittle and Dalley, the Bristol solicitors called Argue and Pibbitts, and the Bath wine merchants Fuller and Hick.

Some names are multi-purpose. Freeman Hardy and Willis could just as well be a firm of solicitors, as could Guest Keen and Nettlefold. Some names just have to be changed: one can see why William Henry Pratt became Boris Karloff and Norma Jean Baker Marilyn Monroe.

But to return to language and Greenwich, and its SDP victor. The *ech* SDP name must be Rosie (health, beauty, hope etc.) Barnes, a London suburb entirely populated by that English speciality, well-off people with a social conscience. And what a divine ambivalence between David Owen, who is really the steel in him, and David Steel, who if he were not Scott could be a Welsh Liberal called Owen.

Language (anger, anger, wrangle; and an anagram of it and Reagan (singing, anger, ray-gun). And Reagan's new chief of staff, Howard Baker? Suggests nothing. Not yet, anyway.

Alan Ryan analyses Labour's attempt to update its philosophy

## Socialism's great rethink

A speculation of an early election intensifies, and the Alliance presents an ever-growing challenge. Labour seems no nearer power than it was in 1983. Physicians and family cluster at the bedside, for the party is in a state of intellectual disarray. It has lost its faith in socialism; it has lost the intellectual initiative to the pupils of Karl Popper and Friedrich von Hayek. The *New Statesman* prints revisionist essays by Fabian philosophers and economists, while Roy Hattersley and Bryan Gould try to wrap themselves in the mantle of Tony Crosland.

But Labour has always been in a state of intellectual disarray; those who look back to a golden age of unity, when a coherent party embraced a coherent socialism, look back in vain. It isn't just that the Labour Party was always half-heartedly socialist. Only a schizophrenic could wholeheartedly embrace Karl Marx and Sydney Webb, proletarian insurrection and tidy bureaucratic benevolence. Small wonder that so many Labour voters settled for Herbert Morrison's "socialism is what the Labour Party happens to be doing at any one time." Ask the question: "What's the Labour Party for?" rather than "Who's the Labour Party against?" and you enter the Tower of Babel.

If the current rethinking about the future of socialism has been thrust on the Labour Party by electoral defeat, the rethinking itself is in sparkling form, whether it is the academics in the newly formed Fabian Philosophy Group or thoughtful politicians like Roy Hattersley and Bryan Gould. Moreover, there is a certain sense that if Conservatism has prospered by drawing on a *laissez-faire* liberalism invented by Adam Smith and refurbished by the Institute for Economic Affairs, socialism, or at any rate Labour, can prosper by drawing on a different strand of liberalism, one invented by John Stuart Mill and refurbished by the American philosopher John Rawls.

Gould's *Freedom and Equality* and Hattersley's *Choose Freedom* call the colours to Rawls's *Theory of Justice* - suitably interpreted. Individual rights are no longer dismissed as the "bourgeois ambushes" denounced by Marx. Rights are to be taken seriously. Labour is no longer the "We Know What's Good for You" party; its slogan is "making rights effective". Among much else, that means that council tenants are not to be treated as faintly delinquent children, left to decide what interior decor they prefer, and forbidden to keep so much as a budgerigar without housing committee consent.

Hattersley winces at the mem-

ory of his days on Sheffield City Council. Gould and Hattersley are happy to talk of rights that Hayek and the IEA would not call rights at all - the right to work to adequate education and to a say in economic management among many others. None the less, the striking thing is the way they embrace the thought that freedom is the goal, and the protection of individual rights the route to it.

This means that they - like the Fabian pamphleteers - can happily embrace market socialism. The "anarchy of production" denounced by Marx and the traditionalists and supposedly to be cured by an army of administrators and planners has slipped out of sight. Not only does market socialism take market discipline seriously, it takes it much more seriously than the present government has done. As John Kay's *Privatisation and De-regulation* points out, there are no gains to productivity if you merely transfer a monopoly from public hands to private hands. The Fabian marketeers point out that a workers' co-operative with adequate capital and management can show a thing or two to more orthodox undertakings in a competitive environment. It takes more than one Freight Corporation to make a socialist summer, but even one is enough to show what's possible.

What about Crosland's declaration that "socialism is about equality"? Is all the talk of freedom simply a fudge? That is the crux. Conservatives of a Hayekian stripe claim that freedom and equality are incompatible. The talented, the lucky, and the energetic will get ahead if they are left to do so; and only if the rich get Rolls-Royces first can the poor get Fords a few years later. Freedom means allowing the lucky to enjoy their luck; equality is neither here nor there, save in equality before the law.

These are claims which are vulnerable to the facts. How far would average earnings drop if foreign exchange dealers didn't earn ten times as much as professors of physics? Would a more redistributive taxation system so destroy incentives that old age pensioners would be even closer to the breadline? Nobody knows, but it's implausible to suppose that Sir Ralph Halpern's marginal half million makes anything like the difference to him that £50 a head would make to 10,000 pensioners. Rawls's theory of justice argues that the better off have to earn their advantages by the good they



BARRY FANTONI  
"I love 'Allo 'Allo, Neville prefers the way they hire and fire director generals'"

do the hard up; Gould and Hattersley concur. But they go further. Borrowing from Fred Hirsch's *The Limits to Growth*, they doubt whether it is true that what the rich enjoy today the poor enjoy tomorrow. Many goods are enjoyable only so long as not many other people try to enjoy them too. The deserted beaches and unpolluted waters enjoyed by the rich man in his yacht turn into the grotty sand and gritty ocean not much enjoyed by the package touring masses. What falls from the rich man's table is crumbs, not haute cuisine. The neo-liberal

vision of freedom is of a "free for all" in the market place; the socialist vision is of a more open access to the good things of life rather than a "trickle-down" of cast-offs.

It is hard to deny that the fewer resources you have, the greater the use you can make of more. Whence the argument for more educational resources for the deprived, more training for the unskilled, more aid to the handicapped. Egalitarianism in social provision is justified by the way it enlarges the choices of those who have least choices. It is left to Neil Kinnock's *Making Our Way* to insist on the obvious truth that all of this depends on getting maximum production out of the economy, but one optimistic assumption common to the rethinkers is that their flexible, market-oriented and anti-bureaucratic approach can do just that.

If Mrs Thatcher wins the next election, it will not be because she has all the brains on her side. Doctrinally, the new model socialist army is as sharp as the left has ever been. Politically, it is in desperate shape.

Market socialism cannot be expected to appeal to the unions, who have an extremely limited role in it. Gould and Hattersley do their best to defend union power as a way of redressing the basic imbalance of power between employers and employees, but the language of individual liberty comes awkwardly to Transport House. How the unions are to be persuaded to pay for a campaign to render them obsolete is a mystery.

Defence issues which have no distinctively "socialist" solution seem likely to drag the Labour Party down in the next election as in 1983. And most obvious of all, the Labour Party's inability to think sensibly about the existence of the Alliance means that the anti-Conservative vote will be hopelessly split.

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## Workfare - US answer to the dole

Washington  
The United States, a country mean on welfare by West European standards, intends to get meaner. There is a remarkable confluence of views among liberals and conservatives about the need to tear down the creaking old structures of dependency and replace them with incentives. The idea is simple: work if you are able, or go hungry. Workfare, as this philosophy is called, has been under consideration by ministers in Britain, and it lies at the heart of a sweeping welfare bill which the Democrats are now proposing to Congress.

The US has 50 states and 50 different welfare systems. The federal government sets only the broad outline and helps with the cost. In Mississippi and indeed throughout Dixie, welfare payments are low, sometimes almost non-existent. In New York state they are comparatively generous. The result: an enormous migration of the poor, the unemployed and the unemployable from the South to the more prosperous, more generous North. In the west there has been a big movement of poor Hispanics from ungenerous states like Arizona to the greener welfare fields of California.

The aim of the pending federal legislation is to iron out the differences, to make welfare a last resort everywhere; to encourage, coax or force people to take a job.

Where none exists, they might be expected to work on government projects - ditch-cleaning, gardening, road sweeping, cleaning up damage by vandals. Details like that would be left to states to devise. Some states already operate such schemes.

Massachusetts, a liberal state, is a workfare leader. Its new policy rests on two assumptions: that it is legitimate for society to demand at least some return from welfare recipients, and that it is in the best interest of welfare "clients" for the effort to be a stepping-stone to full-time work. Overall, 20 states operate some form of work-for-welfare scheme.

Nationally there is bipartisan belief that the current welfare system has spawned a subculture of more or less permanent dependency. AFDC - Aid to Families with Dependent Children - about a quarter stay on the welfare rolls for nine years or longer. Last year the scheme cost \$18 billion.

The Massachusetts scheme is in its fourth year. It is voluntary - no able-bodied person who refuses to work is automatically forced off the welfare rolls. (Unemployment benefit in America, incidentally, is not regarded as welfare. It derives from insurance payments taken out of everybody's pay packet. It is an earnings-related entitlement that generally lasts for 26 weeks. Massachusetts goes to extror-

inary lengths to get welfare recipients to work, including sending friendly letters of encouragement. The velvet-glove approach is typical of all states that are experimenting with work-for-welfare schemes, for one simple reason - 93 per cent of all adults on AFDC are mothers with dependent children.

The Democrat plan now before Congress would allocate huge resources to help states pay for remedial education, job training, work experience and job placement programmes. It would be aimed principally at long-term welfare mothers and especially those whose children are aged six or over. It would pay for day care costs for children of up to \$175 a month per child and up to \$200 a month for infants.

States have different systems of hand-holding to persuade welfare recipients to work. Some schemes are as simple as pre-employment counselling or as elaborate as going to college. It can mean a simple job referral or the creation of a whole new enterprise. In Chicago, a group of welfare "clients" is now employed by a state-backed company making screens and window shades.

Because some jobs pay barely more than welfare benefits, several states have transition arrangements for people moving from welfare to work. It may involve continued membership of Med-

icaid, the health scheme for the poor and unemployed, or continued payment of food stamps.

California, whose ambitious workfare programme is known as Gain, requires able-bodied welfare recipients to accept training and jobs along with their government cheques. The scheme, barely four months old, will affect a third of California's 586,000 AFDC recipients. The handicapped and parents with children aged under six are exempt, but all others are faced with the simple ultimatum of working or going without.

It works like this: after training is completed, the "client" has three months to find work. A man whose search is unsuccessful has to work off the welfare grant in an assigned job. For example, an AFDC mother trained as a day-care worker who could not find a job on her own might be assigned work in a public child-care centre to receive her monthly grant of \$600 plus about \$125 in food stamps.

Such systems are expensive in the short term. In the long they might make a dent in the welfare rolls, in the cycle of long-term dependency and in the permanent welfare underclass. What they reflect is a pervasive, fundamental American hostility to paying welfare to someone with a brain and two hands.

Christopher Thomas





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## RITUAL AND REALITY

In different circumstances Mr Neil Kinnock's visit to President Reagan at the end of this week could be seen as a ritual courtesy, signifying American politeness to the possible next Prime Minister of Britain. It could also be seen as a harmless exercise in electioneering by a British opposition leader anxious to persuade voters of his suitability, as Lord Wilson used to put it, to represent them at the top table.

In the past, such meetings between Labour leaders and United States Presidents have served to provide assurance that Labour governments could be relied on to give wholehearted support to the nuclear policy of the Nato alliance. Now, however, the Americans have to deal with a Labour leader who, while claiming that his party's policy is not incompatible with Nato membership, proposes to exclude US cruise missiles from Britain despite the US Secretary of State's clear intimation that this would be a dangerous blow to the Nato alliance.

Since his last visit to the US in December, Mr Kinnock has tried hard to put together a credible act to play before the President. He will also take a stronger team of advisers, and will have the benefit of public relations professionals to ensure appropriate television coverage. Yet, image-lovers though they are, the Americans are not likely to confuse the message with the advertising medium when it comes to essentials.

Mr Kinnock is taking with him that old star of Atlanticist politics, Mr Denis Healey, as a kind of reassurance. It is as though to say: if our Mr Healey can stomach Labour's anti-nuclear policy and justify it as pro-Nato, cannot you just take his word for it? The Americans are quite capable of recognizing a politician who has had to turn his coat in obedience to political exigencies. In Washington, Mr Kinnock will be judged by the policy, not the presentation.

He will have little for President Reagan's pleasure. He has, it is true, been able to announce (thanks to the negotiations between the US and the USSR) that pending the conclusion of the Geneva nuclear arms talks, he will delay the removal of cruise weapons from Britain. While the talks for the withdrawal of intermediate nuclear missiles were going on, Labour did not, as Mr Kinnock revealingly put it yesterday, "want to jog any elbows".

That, he has made clear, would be done only if the talks failed. Mr Kinnock has clearly reiterated that in one way or another the weapons would be cleared from Britain by the end of a term of Labour office.

Mr Kinnock, furthermore, still intends to require the removal of nuclear weapons from the US F-111 fighter bombers based in Britain. Apparently he intends to tell the Pentagon that their role would be "enhanced" if they were not committed to nuclear as well as conventional weapons.

He intends to insist on the closure of the Holy Loch bases to US Poseidon submarines and, of course, to make Britain a wholly non-nuclear power, cancelling Trident and even decommissioning nuclear battlefield weapons. Britain's share in Star Wars research would also be abandoned, with consequences described by our diplomatic correspondent on the opposite page.

There is something of a paradox here. Mr Kinnock's visit is the less ritualistic and the more important because he is saying something new and different. It is also less important and more ritualistic because what he is saying makes it unlikely that he will be given the dangerous power he seeks.

Defence policy remains Labour's most fatal flaw. In last week's *Observer* Harris Poll, which put the Tories six points ahead, only 20 per cent trusted Labour to make the right decisions on defence, nuclear weapons and disarmament, whereas 42 per cent trusted the Conservatives. That should be some reassurance to Washington.

Will the spectacle of Mr Kinnock at the top table be so impressive as to move British voters his way? Even if the image is more polished than last time, that does not seem probable. Labour's defence policy will be probed and probed on the other side of the Atlantic, just as it is here. It cannot stand up to scrutiny. It can only be tested to destruction.

## ENTER THE KING

The glitter of King Fahd's arrival yesterday obscured the sense of purpose which underlies his visit to this country. This should be more clear today as he and his ministers drive to Downing Street for talks which are important for both governments. Few state visits are as significant as this one.

This is partly because relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia bear an alarming resemblance to shifting sand. Much publicized misunderstandings seem regularly to divide the two nations. The dust generated by the television programme *Death of a Princess* subsided long ago — only to be blown up again by the revelations of an ex-ambassador. Some consular issue or other is always in the news. Modern Britain finds it hard to understand a country where adultery is still punishable by death and alcohol is treated as though it were heroin abuse.

The differences this time are rather more difficult ones. North Sea oil, for instance, has given this country not only something in common with Saudi Arabia — but also ground for disagreement. Mrs Thatcher has rightly been unwilling to bow to Saudi pressure for a curb on oil production in the interests of price stability — and will certainly not change her mind.

The £5,000m sale of Tornado and other aircraft to the Saudis has run into some difficulty over arrangements to offset the cost. Although this is officially denied in Whitehall, negotiations have so far failed to find a way out of the dilemma. While it is harder than the Saudis seem to think for the Government to ensure British private investment in their country, the Prime Minister cannot afford to turn a deaf ear to the Saudi case.

King Fahd's government is not just the biggest customer for British exports outside Europe and the United States, buying £1,500m worth last year. Britain also has a balance of payments surplus with the Saudis worth around £1,000m, at a time when its international trade position is causing some concern.

A solution to such differences is necessary for reasons which lie beyond the issues themselves. The most obvious of these is Anglo-Saudi concern for stability in the Gulf.

To some extent worry over the impact of the Iran-Iraq War on neighbouring states has subsided. Shia populations in the Gulf states (including Iraq) have remained loyal to their national governments rather than to the ayatollahs in Tehran. Even if Iran did still prove capable of outright victory, the fear that it would move on to a regional jihad, seem to have diminished.

This does not however lessen the responsibility of Saudi Arabia, in Western eyes, as the guardian of stability in the region. Following the overthrow of the late Shah, King Fahd has inherited his role as anchorman in the Gulf — ensuring that more than half the world's known oil reserves stay out of the control of the Soviet bloc or maverick Third World rulers. Britain and its allies have to put up with what they see as the unpleasant eccentricities of Islamic law in the interests of realpolitik.

The Saudis wish Britain would take a similarly "realistic" view elsewhere in the Middle East. If King Fahd could return knowing that Britain was about to resume diplomatic relations with Damascus — fractured last year following the disclosure of Syrian masterminding of terrorist activity in London, it would make him a happier man.

That is too much for him to expect. Britain rightly seeks more convincing evidence of Syria's good intent before it will even consider restoring diplomatic relations. Mrs Thatcher is certainly, however, in a position to offer more positive British backing for the stagnant Middle East peace initiative.

## AIDS TESTING IN PREGNANCY

Few groups of the population would seem to have a smaller risk of falling victim to Aids than women who become pregnant. Demonstrably heterosexual, likely to be in a stable relationship, they could be forgiven for feeling that to be tested for Aids was an unwarranted intrusion into their lives and that the money spent on testing would be better spent on improving antenatal care more generally.

At first sight there would appear to be justification for this view. Some of the broader objections have already been voiced. Civil libertarians, opposed to the further extension of the state into the affairs of individuals, fear that even voluntary testing of a restricted group could all too easily lead to compulsory testing, and not only of pregnant women. Representatives of the Catholic Church fear that it would lead to more abortions.

Judging by numbers alone, the possible introduction of tests for pregnant women looks unlikely to save many lives directly. There are around 500,000 pregnancies every year. So far, only seven babies born to mothers infected with the Aids virus are known to have the disease, and only 19 of Britain's more than 100 confirmed Aids patients are women. The take-up rate for the voluntary test might, therefore, not be high.

Compared with the one in 365 risk of bearing a child with Down's syndrome faced by women over 35, the risk to women of bearing a child infected with Aids looks very small indeed. It can thus reasonably be asked whether it would not be more cost-effective to target testing on those (like intravenous drug users and women known to be already infected) who are at greatest risk? Other pregnant women could then be spared the additional worry associated with an Aids test and the state could be spared the expense.

On the other hand it can be argued that the paramount concern of a pregnant woman is for the health of her child and the wellbeing of the family, so that the take-up is likely to be high even if testing is only voluntary. It can be argued further that a child's health is something which should not be subject to considerations of cost. Certainly, if voluntary testing of pregnant women helps to minimize the risk of Aids being passed to the next generation, a voluntary testing programme for this group must be considered worthwhile.

The further case for testing this group, however, is our dangerous shortage of information on this most dangerous and insidious of diseases.

In a country like Britain where there is no national health screening — and where there would be considerable opposition to compulsory screening of any sort — pregnant women represent almost the only cross-section of healthy people to see a doctor.

If Aids tests were made available to them, even on a voluntary basis, and the results were monitored, a picture could gradually emerge of how far and how rapidly the disease was spreading into the population as a whole. Medical opinion is at present divided between those who maintain that Aids will be restricted primarily to the homosexual population and drug users (where its spread can be limited prophylactically) and those who argue that it will, in time, pass into the population at large, and so threaten the health of all.

The likely rate and spread of the disease is one of the most contentious issues in Aids research today. On it hangs the need for broad or narrowly targeted preventive campaigns and on planning for care and treatment of Aids patients. If the voluntary screening of up to 500,000 women a year helped to answer this question, it could obviate the need — and save the expense — of introducing mass screening of the population as a whole.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Loss of impetus in science research

From the President of the Institute of Biology

Sir, Your report of March 19 on the temporary freeze imposed by the Science and Engineering Research Council and the coincident letter from Professor Martin Bobrow and his colleagues about Medical Research Council funding reveal a grave situation. The decision to award a substantial salary increase to university staff was carefully deliberated and there are no grounds for questioning the Government's wisdom in reaching the settlement.

However, the five research councils are also bound by the agreement in respect of those of their staff who work in universities, and the dictates of the market mean that their other employees must be offered a comparable increase. For this the Department of Education and Science has so far been able to make available only four of the 24 per cent supplied to the University Grants Committee.

It might be supposed that against the steady acquisition of scientific knowledge over the years, a few months' dislocation is of little account. That is not the case. The loss of impetus, the cooling of the excitement of research — let alone the more mundane consideration of patent rights — have effects far beyond the period of stasis. Motivation cannot be switched off and on again; bright, eager workers will pursue it elsewhere.

Beyond that, the research councils are responsible for a significant proportion of our strategic research, the bridge between yesterday's fundamental findings and the agricultural, biotechnological and medical practice of the years immediately before us. In the fast-moving world of modern biology the effects of six or nine months' disruption in this sort of research is bound to have severe effects in loss of precedence

and loss of top staff that will be irreparable in the short term. Yours faithfully, KENNETH BLAXTER, President, Institute of Biology, 20 Queensberry Place, SW7.

From Professor R. E. Davies Sir, Over the past 10 years my laboratory has regularly imported small quantities of soil and occasionally plant material for toxic trace metal analysis. Amounts are small, typically about two pounds weight for each importation. There have been many beneficial consequences from this international collaboration.

In doing this work I have scrupulously sought import licences and followed the imposed conditions for storing and destroying the samples. I had expected to renew my licences and continue our work in Greece, Portugal and the USA. But yesterday I received a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture telling me that charges will be levied for such licences from April 1, 1987.

I do not necessarily object to some charge being made but I do take the strongest exception to the scale of the charge, namely £150 per licence, which is identical with that levied for commercial licences.

The sum may sound relatively trivial, but it should be viewed against the university financial background of ever mounting deficits and the increasing scarcity of external grant money. These charges are likely to make it impossible to carry out those small, speculative investigations which often lead to major projects or to undertake small amounts of work for colleagues overseas who do not have our analytical facilities.

Yours faithfully, R. E. DAVIES, University of Bradford, School of Studies in Environmental Science, Bradford, West Yorkshire, March 20.

### Criticism of UGC

From Professor Kenneth Hilton Sir, Professor Peter Moore of the London Business School (Feature, March 20) has joined the Oxbridge criticisms of the University Grants Committee. We are excellent, we are providing a valuable service, they rightly say; why then penalise us?

The answer is that neither the business schools nor Oxbridge are being penalised. Indeed for the next three years at least they are being treated more not less generously than the other universities in the United Kingdom.

In any system the losers are a result of a change to a more rational and more equitable system will always complain more loudly than those whose past injustices are being rectified. The new system does encourage excellence more than the previous system of incrementalism, and in the context of Professor Moore's article the UGC has made extra funds available to all universities

who teach business management studies.

It is not enough to object to a system whereby universities of equivalent research ranking are funded on the same basis; it is incumbent on those who protest to explain on what reasonable basis they would have the system amended.

Perhaps in a world in which the university system as a whole was adequately funded greater protection or protection over a longer period could be offered to those who had benefited from the previous system of allocations; and Professor Moore's attention would be better addressed to the level of Government funding of universities rather than to the allocations of the University Grants Committee. Yours faithfully, KENNETH HILTON, The University of Southampton, Department of Accounting and Management Science, Southampton, Hampshire, March 20.

### Car parking in York

From Mr Conal R. Gregory, MP for York (Conservative) Sir, York is indeed an attractive city, both for the resident and the visitor, but the plan to pedestrianise the heart of England's second city is currently ill-conceived (Spectrum, March 12).

York City Council is trying to steamroller through a plan to close access to the motorist without the vital ingredient of allowing for the construction of car parks. Lord Escher's report in 1968 envisaged the building of four multi-storey car parks for a minimum of 1,200 vehicles each. This is vital to maintain York as a thriving centre. Until the planners accept this need, any such scheme should be clearly rejected. Yours faithfully, CONAL GREGORY, House of Commons.

### Everest supreme

From Dr R. B. Godwin-Austen Sir, Surely Everest proves to be the second highest mountain in the world (letter, March 20), then K2 should revert to its earlier more romantic name, Mount Godwin-Austen.

Henry Haversham Godwin-Austen was a notable explorer and mountaineer who was awarded the Gold Medal by the Royal Geographical Society in recognition of his Karakoram survey and discoveries. Yours sincerely, R. B. GODWIN-AUSTEN, Garrick Club, WC2.

### By other names

From Mrs Catherine L. Ives Sir, I had just finished reading Bernard Levin's delightful reflections (March 17) on euphemisms when our postwoman rang the door bell, bringing a small package.

I informed her that the Post Office was intending to call her a "delivery officer". "Good Lord", was the prompt reply, "people will think I'm a midwife". Yours faithfully, CATHERINE L. IVES, Greenways, Frenze Road, Diss, Norfolk.

From Mr Charles Ottaway, Sir, Bearing in mind the appalling conditions of most of their (our) trains, would it not be more appropriate for British Rail to designate 1st class "standard" and 2nd class "sub-standard"? Yours truly, CHARLES OTTAWAY, 44 Cranbrook Drive, Sundon Park/Luton, Bedfordshire, March 19.

### Teachers' loss a blow to Latin

From Mr I. W. J. Pratt Sir, I must take issue with the Principal of Brixton College (March 18). However commendable his loyalties, he is sadly ignorant of affairs on his own doorstep.

Even though this is the only county school in Lambeth to teach classical subjects, I was informed last week of the decision to remove them from the curriculum next September. Not only will new pupils be deprived of a chance to start Latin, but nearly all those who have begun courses leading directly to GCSE will have their classes abruptly closed down. So much for the availability of Latin in this part of London.

This is being done, at the prompting of the local divisional office, as part of ILEA's policy of identifying "surplus" teachers and redeploying them into areas of shortage. This school has had to construct a curriculum for September which will eliminate the work of 20 of its present 60 teachers.

Mr Gaffikin is no more convincing when he commands tertiary colleges. There is no point in individual excellence if A-level availability is to be determined by student numbers over a wider grouping of schools.

In this part of London, of course, there seems no chance of A-level Latin once classics has been removed from the secondary schools. A guaranteed "minimum offer" of some 15 to 16 A levels is proposed, which includes no classical subjects, and one may wonder how, with the colleges' responsibilities ranging from A levels to basic literacy, there will be scope in the inner city for more than that minimum. Vague references to minority subject provision have yet to receive any specific commitment.

In any case, Sir, your leading article of March 12 was correct: the issue is not of small-scale provision for college enthusiasts, but of opportunities for all secondary pupils, regardless of background.

Yours faithfully, I. W. J. PRATT, Head of Classics, Tulse Hill School, Upper Tulse Hill, SW2, March 20.

### Sum total

From Mr Alan Moore Sir, Your readers may be interested in the following calculations. Mr Baker's pay offer, 16.4 per cent; hours I am currently required to work in school, 1,083; hours required by Mr Baker, 1,265; increase, 182 = 16.6 per cent (This does not include "such additional hours as may be needed to enable (me) to discharge (my) professional duties, in particular . . . marking and . . . preparation.")

What pay rise? Yours faithfully, ALAN MOORE, 64 Crescent Road, N22, March 16.

### Island in the sun

From Dr Michael Carrithers Sir, In your Fourth Leader of March 14 you expressed envy of the woman funded by the Economic and Social Research Council for a year's fieldwork on the tourist industry in a Greek island. I beg you to reconsider. Do you really want to labour painfully to learn a foreign language? Do you want to work 10 or 15 hours a day and write up your field notes in the small hours of the morning? Can you face uprooting yourself and your child, not for a brief holiday, but for an entire year in a new and unfamiliar environment? Can you handle the responsibility of writing a lengthy report with important economic implications for both Britain and another EEC country?

And could you stand a year meeting tourists? Remember: one of them might be a leader writer for *The Times*. Sincerely, MICHAEL CARRITHERS, University of Durham, Department of Anthropology, 43 Old Elvet, Durham, March 19.

### Model for 'David'

From Mr Frederick Hart Sir, The article by Geraldine Norman (March 9) concerning the recently discovered plaster model for Michelangelo's "David" contains two inaccuracies which require immediate correction. The model is not terracotta but plaster — in Italian gesso, as determined by scientific analysis at the University of Bordeaux. It was evidently cast from Michelangelo's preliminary model in wax, for characteristic tool marks in a smooth and soft material are visible throughout, as are the traces of the two-piece mould.

While many copies were made of Michelangelo's statues in quite a number of different materials, including wax, clay, marble and bronze, none in plaster survived, and not one copy is of a quality remotely approaching that of the model for the "David". Only two very sketchy and inaccurate small 16th-century copies of the "David" are known to me. Secondly, and to my personal knowledge, M de Bry is not a dealer but a collector. His professional connections are with French phonograph records. Sincerely yours, FREDERICK HARTT, 1007 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903, USA, March 12.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 25 1933

The Enabling Bill provided the constitutional basis of Hitler's power. Armed with it, he proceeded to carry out a revolution with the authority of the State on his side. Before the summer was out the trade unions were merged into a "labour front" and all other parties disappeared. The dictatorship was under way.

### HERR HITLER'S SPEECH

APPROVAL IN GERMANY

"AGE OF HEROISM"

From Our Own Correspondent

BERLIN, March 24

President von Hindenburg today signed the Enabling Bill, which was immediately promulgated, and therewith was completed the process by which the legislative power in Germany is vested in Herr Hitler for four years. "Politics in seven-league boots" is an apt Nationalist description for the rapid drafting approval by both legislative bodies, and promulgation of the Bill on which "the new Germany" is to be built; and the Nationalist Press again contemplates happily the smart way in which the parties, drilled from the Chair, went through the motions of legislation. The Press, like Parliament, is strictly disciplined, and comment is as rare as an interjection.

As to the content of the Government's declaration it is deduced from the cordial references to private enterprise and property that National-Socialism is jettisoning its Socialism in the moment of the National Revolution, the spirit of which, it is felt, could not have been more happily expressed than in the statement that the time of "bourgeois complacency" was past and the "age of heroism" at hand. The championship of peace is everywhere approved; and none asks, though some may wonder, why professed pacifists are being put in concentration camps. In saying that Germany would be only too glad if the order would come from the necessity for rearming by itself disarming, Herr Hitler, who at this point of his speech received even Centre applause, was expressing the unanimous feeling of Germans, who all wish to see their country on level terms. His undertaking to combat treason with "barbaric ruthlessness" was especially popular with the public; it is noteworthy that the words "barbaric" and "brutal" commanded quick applause in these times, especially from women supporters.

As to the main lines of German foreign policy, these can be clearly traced between the lines of his speech, which implied that Soviet Russia would not regard with more than the most cynical interest the suppression of German Communists, that his Government looked for increasingly close relations with Italy, that they valued the spirit prompting British mediatory effort while doubting whether they go far enough, and that they were politically ready to seek an understanding with France.

The general reaction to the Chancellor's speech is undoubtedly favourable, and this is shown by a further improvement on the Stock Exchange to-day. Foreign comment also is more encouraging than it has been since March 6.

### ARRESTS BY NAZIS

At Kassel to-day a Nazi detachment occupied the Town Hall, and a Nazi official from the Prussian Ministry of Justice proclaimed from a balcony amid roving cheers that the Chief Mayor had been displaced and that the 14,000m. (£700) pension of the former Chief Mayor, Herr Scheideemann, the Socialist, had been cancelled. It was Herr Scheideemann who proclaimed the Republic in 1918 and became its first Chancellor, and his famous words in resigning, "Let the hand wither that sins this peace," did not assuage any of the hatred incurred in his long career. The "isolated acts" deprecated by Herr Hitler do not seem entirely to have ceased, according to a local Nazi leader at Niederbarnim has ordered the arrest by his men of "Marxists" who are being gathered together in a concentration camp at Oranienburg under Nazi supervision.

An American newspaper has done German Jews a disservice by reporting that mutilated corpses were frequently to be seen lying outside the Jewish cemetery in Weissenau . . .

### Fat in the fire

From Mrs Grace Griffiths Sir, The comments on the current hand-out of EEC butter have been many and varied, but I feel that the following conversation overheard in our local post office gives a very new viewpoint. 1st pensioner: "Well, ave 'ee collected your free butter yet?" 2nd pensioner: "Not likely." 1st pensioner: "Why ever not?" 2nd pensioner: "Tis a Tory trick. We costs 'em too much so they's trying to kill us off with clorystol!"

Yours faithfully, GRACE GRIFFITHS, 3 Winterbourne Road, Teignmouth, Devon.

### Natural spelling

From Mr Sidney Ross Sir, Had Mr Leslie Sayers (March 21) sought in his memory as he ought, or even bought an appropriate book, nought would have prevented him from recalling that the rough-coated dough-faced ploughman, as he strode through the streets of Scarborough, was coughing and hiccupping thoughtfully. Yours faithfully, SIDNEY ROSS, 19 Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.







## PERSONAL COLUMNS

## LEGAL NOTICES

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**TO THE ATTORNEYS GENERAL**  
**IN LEGAL LIMITED**  
 Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Intestacy Act 1946, that the estate of the late **JOHN ROBERT GIBSON**, who died on 11th March 1976, and who was last seen in the company of his wife, **Mrs. MARGARET GIBSON**, at his late residence, **143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 13**

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## WARWICKSHIRE

## FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

By Craig Seton

# Middle England ready to grow

If the notion of a North-South divide is true, Warwickshire is fortunately placed. It is well away from the depressed industrial terrain of the northern conurbations, but less luckily set apart from the lush financial pastures of London and the South-East.

At first sight, "Middle England" Warwickshire appears to suffer only a few of the pains of joblessness and decline that the recession, brought to other areas and it is difficult to associate the county with the neighbouring West Midlands, where industrial decay is more apparent.

The county is acknowledged as one of the most pleasant in the Midlands, largely rural and where thatched-cottage villages and market towns provide homes for thousands of commuters to Coventry and Birmingham.

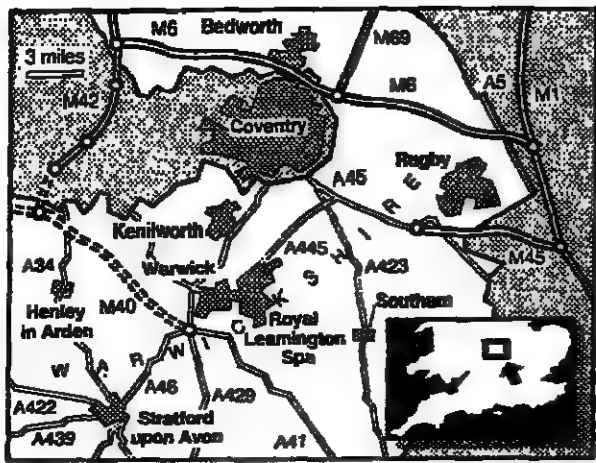
In business terms, it is at the heart of the nation's road and rail network. Even the politics are moderate and Labour councillors, now in the ascendant at county hall, shrink in embarrassment at the doings of some of the hard-left boroughs of other areas.

Some of the choicest names in British industry and commerce have bases in Warwickshire, but the county seeks more acquisitions to propel its industry into the next century.

Despite recent successes, the county's political leaders believe that the recession has been a painful reality for Warwickshire and that they must strengthen their efforts to enable the county to make its way in a hard-nosed business world.

However, Councillor Derek Forwood, chairman of the county council's economic development sub-committee, says there are considerable constraints on the options available. Not least is Warwickshire's continued dependence on the economic fortunes of industry in the depressed West Midlands and, in particular, the shrinking motor industry.

Though the council has created its own industrial



programme to make serviced industrial sites available it is limited by government controls on the amount of hard cash it can put up for essential "pump-priming".

Mr Forwood said: "The amount we can do is absolutely screwed down by government controls on expenditure. We are a responsible authority which has not embarked on any of the barmy proposals you see elsewhere, so it seems a nonsense that we cannot do the sensible things necessary to promote jobs."

## Plans to attract starter firms to the county

Perhaps even more acute is the reluctance of the London-based financial institutions to invest in Warwickshire's economic future.

Mr Forwood said: "To a lot of us, it looks as if money is made too easily by temporary financial activity. They do not seem to be interested in investing in industry. We have an industrial estate, the Great Central in Rugby, where we have tried like hell to get a developer to build units on spec, but they will not do it."

About 70 companies based in Warwickshire are foreign-owned. Plans are being made to attract more through the West Midlands Industrial

Development Association and to encourage starter firms.

The council is particularly concerned about the economic prospects of the northern area, where unemployment is higher, although towns like Rugby have a fine tradition in engineering skills. Plans include an upmarket technology park in Warwick, to complement the success of Warwick University Science Park, and a mixed industrial-commercial development.

Thousands of jobs are involved in the success of the schemes. They offer a bright future to Warwick and neighbouring Leamington, where the famous spa facilities are to be redeveloped and a new shopping centre is to open.

The new political leaders at Shire Hall are calling for private financial support, just as years ago the Conservative group swallowed its qualms and asked the Government for assisted area status. As a result 40 per cent of the northern area has intermediate status.

The council has been "hung" since the 1985 local elections, ending years of Tory control. That Labour for the first time holds the chairmanship of committees, with Alliance support, is an indication of the extent to which political and economic fortunes in Warwickshire are linked.

The Conservatives still form the largest group with 26 seats. Labour has 24, the Alliance 10 and Independents

two. But there is a large measure of all-party support for the new industrial initiatives, just as there is to promote a new tourism strategy in an area.

The south of the county, where unemployment is about half that in the north, also boasts Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon and splendid Warwick Castle, two of Britain's top tourist hot spots. The new strategy is aimed at spreading the benefits of tourism in jobs and prosperity across the county as a whole.

Most of Warwickshire benefits from excellent communications. The M6, linking the county, the new extension of the M42 has brought to the northern half a direct link with the motorway network.

The south, which is less well-served, expects the proposed M40 Oxford-Birmingham extension, via Warwick, to transform its prospects.

In property terms, there has even been talk of London commuters buying homes in south Warwickshire villages.

The successful National Exhibition Centre and the adjacent Birmingham International Airport - both in the West Midlands - are still claimed as Warwickshire "assets".

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## The home for big firms

Much as Warwickshire is dependent on the economic fortunes of Coventry, the city with its 300,000-plus people has been included in the neighbouring West Midlands since the Tory reform of local government in 1974.

This explains Warwickshire's odd shape, with Coventry appearing to punch an urban fist into the midriff of the county's rural areas.

Warwickshire itself, with fewer than 500,000 people, has five constituent districts stretching from Atherstone in the north to Shipston-on-Steam in the south.

In rough terms, northern Warwickshire is regarded as the more disadvantaged area, with a 14 per cent jobless rate, probably double the figure in the Stratford-Warwick area, which has the added advantage of tourism as an additional source of jobs.

In November 1984, after a long campaign by local authorities, the county council, commerce and industry, virtually all of the area covered by North Warwickshire borough, including Cole-shill, Atherstone, Nuneaton and Bedworth - was granted inter-

mediate status, bringing regional selective assistance for industrial development.

Other, smaller areas were included in the scheme: rural areas in the west and north of Rugby borough, a small number of parishes on the northern fringe of Warwick district and the extreme west of Stratford-upon-Avon district, including Alcester and Soudley.

North Warwickshire benefits from the M6 and the M42 extension and new industrial estates at Atherstone, Cole-shill and Arley have attracted manufacturing, servicing and distribution companies, including TNT (Roadfreight), BHS and 3M (UK).

Nuneaton and Bedworth has enjoyed a long reputation as an area of small engineering companies and industrial skills, but it is undergoing considerable change. The coal industry has declined and new companies are taking advantage of the good communications: Coventry, Birmingham and Leicester are about half-an-hour's drive away. A newcomers is Lex Wilkison.

Rugby, at the heart of the motorway network, is still a major engineering centre.

GEC, the largest employer, has also companies in the town, which also boasts Rugby Portland Cement, Peugeot-Talbot, Rolls-Royce, Smiths Industries and Associated Engineering. Newcomers include Tate and Lyle Distribution, Coca Cola Bottlers, Christian Salvesen (Food Services), Grandis International, J. K. Lasers, Multi-Freight and Brands Papers.

Warwick district comprises the county town, Leamington Spa and Kenilworth, rich in history and tourist attractions. Motor vehicle component manufacturers have a strong base in the district, where Automotive Products and Ford are key employers. IBM also has its Midlands marketing and computer centre in Warwick. Volvo Trucks is a recent acquisition. Other companies include Dictaphone, Books for Students, W. H. Smith and Potlondon.

Stratford district, mainly rural, is a mecca for tourists. It has the head offices of IDC, the NFU Mutual Assurance Company, Renault Agriculture (UK), Turner International.

The science park was opened three years ago by the Prime Minister, and now has 30 high-tech companies established on the site, all playing their part in the technological transfer between university and industry.

The Barclays [Bank] Venture Centre Building is designed to aid the rapid growth of small or new starter high-tech ventures.

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## Help for would-be entrepreneurs

The Warwickshire Enterprise Agency, formed three years ago and sponsored by local authorities and the business community, provides a free business service for would-be entrepreneurs.

The agency has offices in Warwick, but holds "surgeries" at locations throughout the county to offer practical advice to people, including the unemployed, those made redundant or have taken early retirement and businessmen with established companies who

want to go it alone. Last year about 900 clients were interviewed. The agency has three full-time staff and three part-time counsellors. Michael Edwards, who was seconded by IBM to be the agency's director, is about to hand over to Cliff Edwards, who has been lecturing at Warwick University's small-business centre.

Christine Heath, the agency's co-ordinator, says: "I think our worth is shown by the number of clients we deal with."

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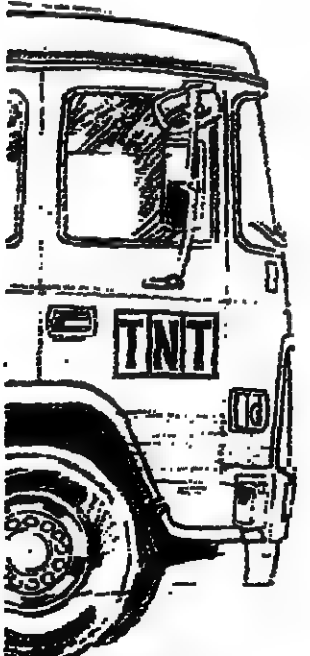
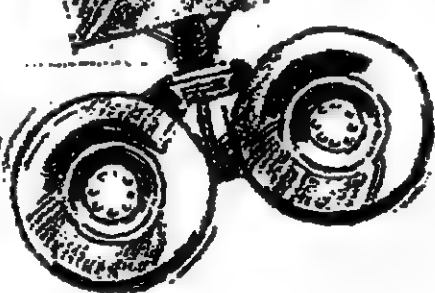
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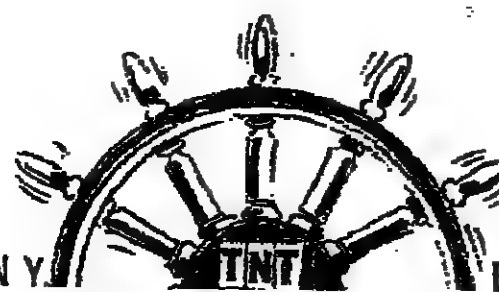
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FOCUS

WARWICKSHIRE/2

# Thousands get jobs from the freed sites

Eight years ago Warwickshire's leaders decided that they had been ignored for too long by both government and private investors and embarked on their own ambitious industrial development programme to combat the ravages of the recession.

The £8.5 million self-help scheme, initiated by the county council, is intended to release more than 250 acres of serviced industrial sites in key areas throughout the county. So far, about two-thirds of the sites have been sold.

Since then, 3,000 people have found work with companies based on nine new estates. Significantly, nearly 60 per cent of the jobs are new ones. As the development programme continues, there is potential for another 3,000 jobs.



Planning a brighter future: Derek Forwood, chairman of the county council's economic development sub-committee, and Jeremy Howell, the council's industrial development adviser

Council strategists are delighted by the results of their scheme, but much remains to be done. Not least they want to demonstrate to private investment institutions that industrial development can be profitable in Warwickshire. Almost as an act of faith in the future, the council is now building a technology park on a 56-acre green field site in Warwick.

Despite what has been achieved, unemployment is still about 14 per cent in the poorer northern half of the county, which was granted intermediate area status by the Government only two years ago.

The county's structure plan suggested that about 32,000 new jobs would have to be created in Warwickshire: 20,000 to cope with the growing workforce and 12,000 to replace those lost in the neighbouring motor industry and other manufacturing sectors.

Warwickshire has been traditionally dependent on the manufacturing industries of the West Midlands and, particularly, on Coventry and the motor industry. When these were battered by the recession, Warwickshire also suffered.

Councillor Derek Forwood, chairman of the county council's economic develop-

ment sub-committee, said: "We are no longer a prosperous county relying in money from the motor industry. One of the obstacles I have found is getting it across to Westminster that Warwickshire has had problems for a long time."

When the industrial development programme was formulated eight years ago, to complement private sector initiatives, the county council was firmly under the control of Conservatives and there was considerable heart-searching among some Tories about the use of public money to create jobs. But after the 1985 local elections, no party achieved overall control.

## All-party support on expansion

Mr Forwood said: "When the industrial programme started, the Labour group was only 10 strong and there were 50 Conservatives, but there has been all-party support on this issue."

The council claims an impressive record of "acquisitions" from its promotion of Warwickshire as an industrial and distribution centre.

It is in Warwick that another major county council project is underway, to keep industry competitive into the next century. An up-market, 56-acre technology park is being built, offering the prospect of a further 1,500 jobs over the next five years in high quality, hi-tech manufacturing and research units.

Mr Forwood said: "I am very optimistic about the future, but we must maintain the momentum and show that Warwickshire is a marvellous place to live and work."

"We have to persuade the investment institutions to come up here and invest as well. Our ability to put up money is limited by government controls on expenditure."

Jeremy Howell, Warwickshire's industrial development adviser, said most companies which had located on the new estates were already established in the county, but if new sites had not been provided for them, their growth would have been stifled or they would have moved elsewhere.

Up to 30 per cent of the companies on the estates are newly-established companies and an estimated 50 per cent of the jobs are in manufacturing.

The industrial programme is designed to be self-financing and each scheme is carefully appraised to make sure it is financially viable. It is estimated that the programme will cost about £8.5 million, but with the sale of the serviced sites, returns could reach £13 million.

Warwickshire now also runs its own venture-capital fund to give loans of between £25,000 and £50,000 to new or growing businesses and a small-business loans scheme, involving sums between £500 and £3,000.



Show time: Stoneleigh, set in 615 acres at the National Agricultural Centre, near Leamington, presents its 25th Royal Show this year and is expected to attract 200,000 visitors

# House prices speed up with the motorway

The construction of the M40 extension from Oxford to Birmingham could be one of the most important influences on property in Warwickshire for many years.

The motorway extension will give a large part of Warwickshire a fast, new direct link with London and the Home Counties and some estate agents are already talking of a large rise in property prices between now and 1990.

Prices in southern Warwickshire, which is expected to benefit most, are estimated to be more than 20 per cent cheaper than in the Home Counties.

John Hall, a partner in Staites, the Leamington Spa-based estate agents, said: "We are seeing prices going up and the M40 has got to have an effect, perhaps not so much in Warwick and Leamington Spa but in the corridor along the route of the motorway where hitherto the villages have been rather inconvenient."

It is estimated that the new motorway extension will put London and Heathrow airport within one-and-a-half hour's drive.

Mr Hall said prices in the Warwick-Leamington Spa

area were moving up "quite sensibly." He added: "This part of the Midlands has so much going for it at the moment. I think there will be a good, sustained increase in prices, but I would be cautious about saying it was going to be dramatic."

Other important influences included the proposed 56-acre technology park in Warwick and the growth of the IBM

centre in the county town, where the company now employs 750 people.

The Regency spa town of Leamington, once regarded as rather faded, is now seeing considerable improvements and renovation. A £20 million shopping centre is due to open there this autumn and Warwick District Council is backing a multi-million pound development of the Royal Pump Rooms.

According to Warwick District Council, it will be designed on the model of the classic European health spas,

providing preventative and curative treatments.

The council said: "The development will relaunch Royal Leamington Spa as the premier operational spa town of the United Kingdom and is fully expected to bring clients from the Continent for a holiday incorporating some health treatment."

In its attempts to attract new companies to Warwickshire, the county council and local authorities claim that "Middle England" has a classic combination of good housing, state and private education and leisure facilities in an area which is a magnet for tourists.

Warwick University, on the outskirts of Coventry, has 5,000 students and there are six other universities and five polytechnics within 50 miles of Warwick.

Colleges of further education are at Leamington, Rugby, Nuneaton and Stratford and there are nine preparatory schools in the county and four public schools, including Rugby School, which takes girl pupils into the six form, and Warwick School.

## Staying with Shakespeare

In the drive to create jobs and new wealth, tourism in Warwickshire is increasingly regarded as important as other forms of economic development. The jewels in the county's crown are Shakespeare's Stratford and Warwick, boasting Britain's most famous medieval castle.

Now the county council is finalizing a tourism development strategy designed to give Warwickshire its own, distinctive tourist trade mark, improve and expand what it has to offer and produce several hundred more jobs over the next five years. The intention is to make Warwickshire something more than part of the "milk run" that brings tens of thousands of visitors on their way from London to call at Warwick and Stratford before moving to Coventry Cathedral and on up the motorway.

County strategists are also keen to diversify the tourist industry in such a way that it is less vulnerable to the effects of worldwide events, such as currency fluctuations. It is estimated that about a million people visit Warwickshire each year, 200,000 of them from overseas. An estimated 7,150 jobs in Warwickshire are directly related to the tourist industry, which pumps about £50 million a year into the county.

Councillor Harold De'ath, vice-chairman of the county council and chairman of the Heart

of England Tourist Board, said: "The average visitor stays in Warwickshire under three-and-a-half nights. We want them to stay longer and spread the benefits across the county."

Beyond the facilities at Stratford and Warwick, the castle at Kenilworth, the spa at Leamington and the golfing centre at the famous Belfry Hotel in the north, key new areas are being earmarked for potential. They include industrial archaeology and the county's canal network, historic houses, water and country parks and the civil war site at Edgehill. Whichever way tourism in Warwickshire develops, it is still very much thanks to William Shakespeare that the county is known throughout the world. More than 500,000 million people flock each year to Stratford to visit his birthplace, Ann Hathaway's cottage, Mary Arden's house and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. More than 600,000 people a year visit Warwick Castle, eight miles away.

Alan Courtney is secretary of the Stratford Marketing Group, a joint public-private sector enterprise set up to promote Stratford as a conference and "incentive" destination, largely for business people. He says: "It is estimated that 27 per cent of the population of Stratford owe their livelihood to tourism and there are about 1,000 jobs in hotels here."

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# THE ARTS

## Taste of comedy

With the General Election still unimaginably far in the future, one has to search long and hard for a good laugh on television. *Saturday Night* continues to spatter with titillating delights, while pandering to the sensibilities of its youthful studio audience, *situation comedies* of all shapes and sizes continue their ritualistic sleepwalk, all situation and no comedy.

Filmed at a festival in Montreal, *Just For Laughs* (Channel 4) is currently the

### TELEVISION

best bet on any channel — although one does wonder what else a comedy programme could be for, if not for the stated purpose. The title is a queasy compromise which suggests that its creators were genuinely anxious to dispel our doubts as to the propriety of its content. *Pace* the racist and sexist drive that informs the material of most mainstream stand-up comics, there is no consistent onus on comedy to be offensive. It just has to be skilful (obeying its own internal logic) and fresh (it has to transcend the conventions while being aware of them).

Last night we watched a young Canadian with haywire hair don a mask which joined his forehead to his upper lip for the purpose of demonstrating how the late Elvis Presley might have sung "Love Me Tender" after years of unbridled cocaine indulgence. Bad taste? Someone somewhere is bound to have taken offence. A female comic from the USA then berated ugly people — a confident choice of butt, for, as she observed, no one is going to complain when to do so would identify him with the target group. It was left to another visitor from south of the border to abuse Montreal's hospitality by obsessively raffling against maple syrup for five minutes straight. His clearest audience got the joke: Canada is generally regarded as the Sweden of North America.

Britain's contribution came from Phil Cool, a comic who has attracted notice primarily for his apparently ribicized social features which he can outdo into improbable configurations. His material (and he is feeble, but he has a roiling talent for bravura apertures which get their biting edge from early career local mimicry. President Reagan metamorphosing into space invader was an average idea brilliantly executed).

It was surely an error of judgement for Channel 4 to allow this with *Comedy Vengeance*, a home-grown showcase for new writing talent which parades the depressing parochialism of minds exercised by what they imagine to be the state of the world. Still, at least its cabaret format permits the audience to drink. This might go some way towards explaining their apparent enjoyment.

Martin Cropper

## Arthur Daley going straight

George Cole returns to the London stage in Peter Nichols's new play *A Piece of My Mind*, which goes into preview at the Apollo tonight and officially opens next Tuesday: interview by John Higgins

George Cole is back at the Apollo Theatre for the first time in 44 years. His last role there was as a potboy in Terence Rattigan's *Flare Path*. After that he was called up, but he went into the services presumably knowing something about the RAF. The play in which he makes his reappearance is *A Piece of My Mind*, which also marks a return for Peter Nichols, its author, after he had vowed never to sully his hands with the theatre again.

Footlights and greasepaint are twin bo-constrictors once they have you in their grip they do not let go. Nichols's declarations of divorce from the stage can be considered a touch of Jonathan Milleritis. He is back where he should be. And, as Irving Wardle reported from York on the play's pre-London tour, he has written a dazzling piece about a dyspeptic playwright who is at war with most things, including his characters, who also happen to be his family.

What attracted George Cole to the play was its pure theatricality. "It's an audacious piece of work that can only be done in the theatre — and in an intimate theatre like the Apollo. It's not telly and it's certainly not film. Peter just adores the theatre and of course he had to go back to it. You can see in his new play almost a plea for live theatre, which we're always being told is in its death throes." Certainly in its obsession with the relationship between life and theatre there are elements in common with *Six Characters in Search of an*

Author, by coincidence now in residence at the National, and Pirandello gets his due credit. Had Cole and Nichols had any previous contact, and was the part of Ted Forrest, father of two and jealous enemy of all in the writing game, devised for him? "The answer is 'No' on both counts. I don't believe you sit down with a sheet of paper and a specific actor in mind. I read the script, liked it and invited Peter down for a meal. It snowed heavily so he had to spend the night — bit like *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, actually."

"We took it out on the road before the West End. Brighton, Bath, Richmond, all those marvellous theatres I haven't seen for years. In fact I haven't been on tour since the early Seventies with *The Philanthropist*. It's all changed. At one time they wouldn't come and see you in the theatre because they said they could see you for free on the telly. Now some of them obviously expect to see Arthur Daley on stage. I'm sorry to disappoint them, but I'm used to receiving complaints. This time it's about bad language, although Anna Carter who plays my wife has most of that. During *Minder* they always wrote to Arthur when Terry got too violent."

"Morden Council" is the brief and perhaps deliberately bleak entry under Education for George Cole in *Who's Who in the Theatre*. The story of running away from the family which adopted him to join a theatre company has been told often enough. But that South London upbringing must have helped, first for the juvenile roles and then for spiv parts in the days when the girls of St Trinian's were in revolt.

After all, Arthur Daley's natural habitat is not too far from the Northern Line. True. Nothing worse than an up-market cockney, is there? It helped to get me roles in the first instance and it helped me get out of them. When Alastair [Sim] took me under his wing he and his wife Naomi used to put their hands over their ears at my vowels. And he was a professor of elocution, remember. You might make jokes about *Pygmalion* but that was well out of my ken at that time. At that period I wasn't aware just what I was learning while I was listening. It is only now that he has gone that I know how much I just assimilated from him. Sometimes while we were filming *Minder* I was expecting a thunderbolt to arrive

from heaven with the words "I didn't train you for this." What, Sim did train him for was James Bridle, and George Cole reckons that his performances in *Mr Boffy* and *Dr Angelus* were among the best of his career. Would Bridle revive now? The answer comes back that he doesn't know. That is probably a polite way of saying "No".

The excursions into the classical repertoire have been rare. Tesman in *Hedda Gabler*, a little Shaw. What about the invitations?

"Well, I did play the Boy in the film of *Henry V*. One night Richard Widmark came to dinner — just like Peter Nichols — the phone rang and I came back to say I'd just been invited to play Othello. He said 'For Chrissakes, WHERE?' The answer was Ludlow. And one day when I was filming an RSC production asked me if I'd join the company to do the Duke in *Measure for Measure* and *Pericles*. So I went off to a very experienced colleague who was on the same film to ask him about this director. 'Funny you should mention him,' he said, 'he's just asked me to the Duke and *Pericles* for the RSC.'"

So no Shakespeare, unless Justin Greene, director of *A Piece of My Mind*, persuades him to do *The Merchant of Venice* at Southampton. Meanwhile the shadow of Arthur Daley is ever there. There is talk of a *Minder* special at Christmas — "times to kill him off," says George Cole. But will it be *La Mort d'Arthur* or the *Reichenbach Falls* all over again?



George Cole: "Nothing worse than an up-market cockney, is there?"



Sara Kestelman's powerful Olga (centre), Katharine Schlesinger (left) and Joanne Whalley

The young Taiwanese violinist Cho-liang Lin made his recording debut last year with an album of the music of Samuel Dushkin, and it was with the most considerable piece from that repertoire, the *Duo* concert, that he began this recital, his first in this country.

Perhaps the association is inevitable, given that he plays on Dushkin's Stradivarius, but his musicianship, too, suits him to Stravinsky: his tone is dry, his articulation precise, and he has a quick sense of dance rhythm, as he demonstrated again later, in those episodes in the first movement of Beethoven's *G* major Sonata, Op 96, where the music tries to whirl away in 9/8.

What seems to be a less fortunate characteristic (for it

### CONCERT

Lin/Pettinger  
St John's/Radio 3

was shown also in the otherwise admirable Stravinsky record) is a slipperiness of tuning in fast high music: his shades within a restrained and distant region of tone-colour. Slides of pitch were now applied with control, and profitably, in the Beethoven adagio, for instance, the long notes were subtly and slowly approached from below, so that each bloomed out of a grey hesitation.

This eminently conversational sonata also proved how well Mr Lin and Mr Pettinger work as a team. They may both have their faults (resolute chords from Mr Pettinger can be clattery), but they are also alive and musical performers, and their recital was refreshing.

Very much more successful were the two Stravinsky slow movements and the adagio of the Beethoven, all of which were accomplished with a light, unaffected command of phrasing, and with a highly-musical sense of weight and shade within a restrained and distant region of tone-colour. Slides of pitch were now applied with control, and profitably, in the Beethoven adagio, for instance, the long notes were subtly and slowly approached from below, so that each bloomed out of a grey hesitation.

Paul Griffiths

## Chekhov made vividly operatic

### THEATRE

Three Sisters  
Greenwich

Compared with the stampede of classical directors into the opera-house, there has been little traffic in the opposite direction: but judging from this production by Elijah Moshinsky it could lead to some extraordinary transformations of the classical repertoire. At Greenwich, Chekhov emerges as an exuberantly full-blooded dramatist whose characters mean what they say and who would not recognize a subtext if one came up and bit them. Before you dismiss this as a gross vulgarization, I must list some of its positive effects.

Moshinsky has conceived the play as the story of a house. Instead of a sequence of sets, there is a revolve containing the whole structure and garden. By the end, John Bury's gaunt timbered interiors are soaked in the history of the Prozorovs' dispossession. The characters are played with maximum expressiveness and self-assertion, and some appear in a startlingly new and convincing light.

For once, the sisters are headed by a powerful Olga (Sara Kestelman) who is clearly a decisive teacher however incapable she may be of telling Natasha (Cathryn Harrison) where to get off. David Allister's Kulygin changes

from the usual bloodless pedagogy into a high-spirited dandy, immensely self-satisfied and treating the house almost as a harem. There is a marvellous doctor from Peter Salter's cuddly, mischievous old uncle, for once a natural confidant for Andrei and Masha, who remain unaware of his underlying despair.

The doctor, of course, has a scene in which he reveals his despair, so he fits easily into the Moshinsky pattern. Elsewhere — and this is where doubts begin — other characters are credited with similar breakdowns whether Chekhov wrote them in or not. Ron Cook's Solonyoi does not merely pour out his secret passion for Irina; he goes close to raping her. And when we get to the duel we find the Baron (Paul Jesson) collapsing in tears and making a 'ringingly melodramatic exit, capped after his death by the sight of Irina (Katharine Schlesinger) swooning away at Olga's feet.

As that dire example suggests, the perversity of the show is in pushing each episode towards a conventional climax. Sometimes the climax arrives out of thin air. You learn very little about Ian Ogilvy's charming Vershinin. Then comes the moment of parting, and he huris Masha (Joanne Whalley) to the ground. Does that discredit his supposed feelings for her, or is he simply desperate to get away?

The production is at its excellent best in the organiza-

tion of social events, which takes on a strongly musical character. The second act is pervaded by expectation of the party to come, and brief spotlight exchanges move into focus and fade away on a stage gradually being taken over by dancing. On such terms, the production makes full and illuminating contact with the play. The excellent translation (originally staged at the Manchester Royal Exchange) is by Michael Frayn.

Irving Wardle

Nonsense  
Fortune

Depending on your views as to the comic potential of nonsense, this musical is a wasted opportunity or a conception that should have been dispatched before birth. The amusingly heartless premise informs us that a calvary mishap has left 52 of the Little Sisters of Hoboken dead after eating poisoned vichyssoise. The convent only has the cash to bury 48 of them but to make up the shortfall the Mother Superior is inspired to put on a show right here.

There is a maniacal necessity to this and it is just about possible to imagine a musical about mass mounting a musical, along the lines of the parodies of dreadful amateur musical comedy that formed the high spots of several revues back in the Sixties. But what Dan Goggin (book/music/lyrics) has preferred to do

is pretend his five performing nuns are all frustrated entertainers longing to high-kick, tap and belt out a torch-song. The joke is supposed to be that all the songs relate to convent life and the high kicks are kicked by girls in wimples. Richard Digby Day, the director, encourages the cast to overplay.

With one exception there is no sense that any of them are nuns, frustrated or not; they are just some actresses brought together to sing a blues number, a close harmony number, a hot gospel number, a Judy Garland number, and tell a lot of dad jokes; the recipe for Barbecued Ribs Jeanne d'Arc, for example.

As the would-be ballet dancer, Brownwen Stanway has her moments as a dying nun but spoils them by looking regal. Anna Sharkey contributes a fleeting serious moment on the vanished rituals of the Church. Pip Hinton has a way with the pronunciation of "non-catholic". I could discern no purpose in what Honor Blackman was doing with her Mother Superior.

Jeremy Kingston



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A fortnight-long festival of contemporary music in Los Angeles, "New Music L.A. '87," came to an end with a Californian apotheosis for Pierre Boulez, celebrating in part the thirtieth anniversary of his first appearance in the city, when he arrived to conduct the then very new *Le Marteau sans maître*. This time *Le Marteau* was again on the programme, though perhaps now seeming less ferociously extraordinary. In 1957 the ensemble had rehearsed through eight hours each day for a fortnight, whereas the 1987 members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group evidently took the work in their stride.

The comparative ease of their performance, however, was not just a matter of experience: Boulez himself, as conductor, now requires a more relaxed approach, less diamantine than party, suggesting Ravel quite as much as Webern. The percussion rhythms may still have been in temperate at times, but the flute was allowed an opulent lyricism that made light of the dynamic contrasts, and Phyllis Bryn-Julson as soloist was undisturbingly pleasant in tone and light-spirited, behaving as if the René Char poems were quite fresh and straightforward.

She performed the unusual, perhaps even unprecedented

## Subtle hammer

Paul Griffiths assesses Pierre Boulez at the Los Angeles contemporary music festival



Pierre Boulez: what now is his most essential contribution?

feat of giving *Le Marteau* in the same programme as its avowed predecessor, *Pierrot Lunaire*. However, this was a less satisfactory performance, largely because she went to such extremes in avoiding expressionist violence: the line was very much sung, with little value given to consonants, and her histrionic gestures were much too cosy.

The conjunction of *Le Marteau* and *Pierrot* was partly stimulated by another anniversary, the tenth of the

Schoenberg Institute at the University of Southern California, where much of Schoenberg's creative estate is held. Rather charmingly, but perhaps also a shade surprisingly, even worryingly, Boulez confessed himself glad of the chance to measure himself against his most formidable predecessors, in order to determine whether he was "on the same level". Los Angeles gave him that opportunity not only with *Pierrot* but also with the other radical emblem of

early from paper. For most of this dance Daniels stays on one spot in a golden glow, but some gestures defile the general air of innocence.

Matthew Hawkins sees her as a swaggering fellow, strange and humorous, calling this characterization for some reason *The Boxed Spook*. He gives her some bold movement, a free adaptation of classicism, but the total effect remains elusive.

Hans van Manen's contribution is a series of video films, shown while the dancer is changing between numbers. By their concentration on

the early 20th century, *The Rite of Spring*.

This, in an alternately smooth and intensely impulsive, noisy performance by the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Boulez's direction, was partnered with the rare and miraculous *Zvezdoliki* that Stravinsky wrote at the same period, as well as with three short works of Boulez's own: the dance concert *Le Soleil des eaux*, the study for cellos *Messagequise* and the choral soundscape *cummings ist der dichter*.

None of these is likely to demonstrate Boulez's worthiness of Stravinskian laurels, though *Le Soleil des eaux* is certainly a stronger piece than the Los Angeles Philharmonic Choral made it seem (Miss Bryn-Julson was again the soloist, and here her graceful euphony was exactly right). The Choral were heard to better advantage in the Cummings setting, heard in a 1986 version that Boulez justified as using a more normal orchestra (though it still needs three harps) and as developing the music a little more: nevertheless, this newly feathered scope is not essentially changed, and one may well wonder whether a revised *cummings*, or even the expanded *cummings* that is still promised, can be happily accepted as this composer's most essential present contribution.

Music by Harry de Wit complements the varying moods and provides effective and unpredictable enhancement of their contrasts and shading. The show as a whole is more austere than Daniels's highly theatrical last solo programme, *Profile*, but maintains the high expectations established by so many young women dancers from the Netherlands.

John Percival

### DANCE

Pauline Daniels  
The Place

widely round the stage, some extremely fast steps contrasted with big, teetering swings to the side. There is a sense of searching, in space and time, which with the unusual movements makes this dance striking.

Mark Vanrunxt turns her into a unicorn, in white frock and a horn sculpted appar-

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A ShowPeople Production

A Royal Gala in the presence of HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon

Sunday 12 April at 7.30pm Tickets from £10.00

Sadler's Wells Theatre  
ROSEBERY AVE ECT Box Office: 01-278 8916



# £123bn spent on arms by Moscow

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The Soviet Union's strategic defence programme over the past 10 years has cost the equivalent of about \$200 billion (£123 billion) for all types of defensive systems, according to a Pentagon report, *Soviet Military Power - 1987*. "Our technological lead is being increasingly challenged," Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said in the preface. But according to the report, the Soviet Union remained an average of 10 years behind the West in civil and industrial computer technology. Mr Weinberger also pointed out: "Each year, however, we confront a more technologically advanced Soviet Union, which has been aided by theft and legal acquisition of Western technology and growing sophistication of the USSR's own scientific knowledge." The report said that noteworthy Soviet military efforts during 1986 included:

- The newest class of strategic ballistic missile submarine, the Delta IV, is preparing to put to sea on its first operational mission carrying 16 SSN 23s, the newest ballistic missile.
- The SS 25 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) now has about 100 launchers.
- The rail-mobile SSX 24 ICBM is about to be deployed. It is nearly the size of the giant US MX missile, with 10 nuclear warheads.
- Additional supersonic Blackjack bombers have joined the five aircraft that were reported last year to be undergoing flight testing.

For the 10 years 1977-1986, the Soviet Union built 3,000 intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, the US 850; the Soviet Union 140,000 surface-to-air missiles, the US 16,200; the Soviet Union 24,400 tanks, the US 7,100; the Soviet Union 90 submarines, the US 43; the Soviet Union 28,200 artillery pieces, the US 2,750.

The report said that the Soviet tactical laser programme had progressed to where battlefield laser weapons could soon be deployed, and also alleged that the Russians had recently irradiated manned Western surveillance aircraft and ships, whose crews may have suffered eye damage.

● MOSCOW: Tass denounced the Pentagon report as a tissue of lies.

Mr Weinberger: US lead under challenge.



The Princess of Wales greeting King Fahd. Prince Abdul Aziz, met the Duchess of York and travelled to the Palace with the Duke of Edinburgh.

## Royal hemline compromise for a King

Both the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York were dressed for the occasion yesterday during the state visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. When royal hemlines have recently risen well above the knee, and both fashion-conscious royals have been toeing the petticoat line, it is obvious a compromise had to be made to accommodate the traditions of the

visiting monarch. During the royal visit to Saudi Arabia last November the Princess followed convention and wore ankle-length saris or full-length skirts. The Duchess of York has abandoned the gathered, full skirts she favoured before her marriage for a more streamlined silhouette, even opting for a black leather mini at a recent

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## Frank Johnson in the Commons

### Chilling message for Gorbachov

Mr Stefan Terlecki (Cardiff West, C), who grew up in the 1930s Ukraine, was elected in 1983 by predominantly working class Cardiff West. Yet, as would be expected from someone of his antecedents, he is very much the embodiment of a national cause far removed from the concerns of orthodox religion, land, the army and haired of Russia (Thatcherism).

Mr Terlecki was especially prominent in yesterday's proceedings. First, during questions to the Prime Minister, amid Tory cheers and Labour mockery, with his English romanticism revealing his Slavonic origins, he urged Mrs Thatcher at great length to tell Mr Gorbachov various truths about human rights, peace and justice when she visits him shortly.

Later, Mr Terlecki sought leave to bring in a Bill which would abolish May Day as a public holiday and replace it with a "Winston Churchill National Day" on or about May 10, the date in 1940 of his becoming Prime Minister. For once, the motions on both sides of the House were convincing. Mr Terlecki's case was simple and again left him a prey to Labour hilarity. For those reasons, his speech was rather moving. "The holiday I am proposing would remind people, especially youngsters and future generations, of a great man whose steadfastness and courageous leadership captivated people's hearts and saved Britain from Nazi slavery," he said.

When I arrived in Britain in 1948, it was like heaven on earth... Nothing is more precious than freedom. It is like fresh air... Mr Winnick: "Chile! We are not making that up. He really did shout 'Chile'."

There were further heckles, from Mr Winnick and others, about Munich, and Labour refusing to serve under Chamberlain and therefore putting Churchill in power. The evidence suggests that Labour would also have served in 1940 under Halifax. Opposing the Bill, Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab), a Militant Tendency man, said May Day commemorated a great strike in 1886. In Chicago at the time a bomb was thrown and people were hanged. It was "never established" who threw the bomb. For one moment, it seemed as if he were going to demand a full inquiry.

There were protests, he said, from such figures as Oscar Wilde and Bernard Shaw (a later admirer of Mussolini, though Mr Nellist did not mention that). Mr Nellist then quoted superficially admiring words about Hitler from Churchill's *Great Contemporaries*, without quoting the more prophetic passages about Hitler's cruelty. Labour backbenchers were satisfied. Mr Nellist. Like Mr Terlecki, Mr Heffer has travelled in life. He was born in the placid Home counties. Then he reached Liverpool. With its strikes, union business and anti-racism council, it was like heaven on earth to him.

## 'Rich and poor' report provokes row

Continued from page 1

the south-east of England, confirming the long-established divide between North and South, according to the report. "What is becoming increasingly clear from fresh evidence is the great inequalities which exist between communities living side by side in the same region," Miss Margaret Whitehead, the report's author says. "Pockets of very poor health can be pinpointed alongside better health in more affluent areas."

Thousands of deaths each year could be saved, building up to 20,000 a year by the end

of the century, if Britain pursued health policies directed towards the poor. Such policies have been advocated by the World Health Organisation and the targets have been endorsed by all European member countries, including Britain, the report states. "The undertaking to reduce health inequalities by at least 25 per cent will remain an empty gesture unless radical steps are taken by governments." The steps should include anti-poverty policies, priority for healthier life-styles and large-scale studies to monitor the health of the nation as a whole and that of

the poorest groups in particular. Sir Brian Bailey issued a statement explaining the cancellation of the press conference yesterday. It said: "The report is the result of research commissioned by the director general of the HEC. Members of the Council have not been involved in the commissioning of this work, and more importantly, have not had the opportunity of considering the findings, which as the author acknowledges, are hers and not those of the council. "Because this is an important and possibly controversial document, the chairman of the HEC, Sir

Brian Bailey has decided that it is necessary to postpone this afternoon's press conference until the council or its successor body has had the opportunity to consider the document. Dr Player then issued a statement, which said: "Sir Brian Bailey has given instructions to the director general that he may not attend this press conference and that should not be held on HEC premises. Dr Player said after the cancellation that relations between himself and Sir Brian were "somewhat strained". The Health Divide, (HEC, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH).

## Softer line on DHSS fraud

Continued from page 1

The Lord Chief Justice said that there had been a general relaxation in the law in respect of those who had been wrongly overpaid by welfare agencies, in spite of the fact that expenditure on welfare was vast and accounted for £39.1 billion, according to 1985/86 statistics. Supplementary benefit and unemployment benefit was vulnerable to fraud, but in recent years there had been a policy of issuing warnings and recovering funds, rather than prosecuting. This was clear from comparing the 30,000 prosecutions in 1980-81 and

just over 13,000 two years later. Among 6,000 offenders who came before magistrates in 1985, only 2 per cent had gone to prison. "It is clear that, in order to qualify for prosecution at all, offences must be other than minor," Lord Lane said. Offences involving honest taxpayers' money could be treated lightly, but on the other hand they were non-violent, non-sexual and non-frightening. The judges rejected appeals by three men who they said had made a business out of cheating the public purse. Anthony Kiddier, aged 66, was sentenced to four years at

Knightsbridge Crown Court last December. Michael Dennehy, aged 45, was jailed for three-and-a-half years, and John Pitchers, aged 49, was jailed for three years at Newcastle Crown Court on February 2. Mr Geoff Lawler, vice-chairman of the Tory backbench employment committee, said Lord Lane's call was "an affront to all law-abiding people who declare their incomes and pay all their taxes, and equally to those who are honest claimants of social security and depend on it for their income" (Our Political Reporter writes).

**The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,313**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- ACROSS**
- Philosopher in decrepit aircraft putting out appeal for help (8).
  - Calculator shows a vehicle holds a hundred (6).
  - Young American hero brings fruit to a European (11,4).
  - Again go over study that includes origins of the Roman Empire (7).
  - US General Joe's contribution to the Walrus's feast? (7).
  - Has she a lesson to teach her love? (8).
  - Head of the painter, for instance, in a figure of speech (3).
  - One heard greeting a girl with his hoarsely laugh (5).
  - Aerodynamic control of lift (8).
  - Bird boy's a hooligan (7).
  - Observe the sporting misdemeanour, say, of this bird (3-4).
  - The scales for instance that may control one's destiny (4,2,3,6).
  - The song of joy the man's composed (6).
  - Clothed as Trojans were by Greeks (8).
- DOWN**
- Heavenly music-maker all round (6).
  - Scar shown by a critic injured in the middle of a scene (9).
  - What can be the matter with Kest's knight at arms? (7).
  - Journalist's support for Mrs Browning initially declined (5).
  - Weapon used by some at Sir John Moore's burial (Wolfe) (7).
  - Right type, Heather - what a peach! (5).
  - Various items the source of heat dehydrates (8).
  - Danger for climbers the Vicar of Bray (?) found in church (8).
  - "Life... Stains the white radiance of..." (Shelley) (8).
  - Cockney clock-maker is a man of the mountains (9).
  - Heaven-cent attraction one's mother pursues daily (8).
  - Fatty's attitude after mountain-climbing near Troy (7).
  - Sailor has a sole or other seafood (7).
  - Clan leader in Highland garb appears calm (6).
  - RAF unit loses fifty in the battle (5).
  - The gloss he endorsed apparently (5).

**WEATHER**

General situation: A frontal system will bring rain followed by clearer weather to all parts by the end of the day. The morning will start wet across all of the British Isles. Clearer weather will soon reach Northern Ireland and western parts of Britain, and this brighter, mostly dry weather will spread to all parts by the end of the afternoon. Central and southern areas will be dull and wet at first, becoming brighter, with wind southerly, fresh, veering west later. Some showers are likely in western areas later in the day. Strong to gale force winds in the north of Scotland will become moderate later. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: showers or longer spells of rain in all districts.

**ABROAD**

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	W 10	100
Brussels	10	W 10	100
Frankfurt	10	W 10	100
Geneva	10	W 10	100
London	10	W 10	100
Madrid	10	W 10	100
Munich	10	W 10	100
Paris	10	W 10	100
Rome	10	W 10	100
Stockholm	10	W 10	100
Vienna	10	W 10	100
Zurich	10	W 10	100

**AROUND BRITAIN**

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	W 10	100
Brussels	10	W 10	100
Frankfurt	10	W 10	100
Geneva	10	W 10	100
London	10	W 10	100
Madrid	10	W 10	100
Munich	10	W 10	100
Paris	10	W 10	100
Rome	10	W 10	100
Stockholm	10	W 10	100
Vienna	10	W 10	100
Zurich	10	W 10	100

**HIGH TIDES**

Area	Time	Height
Amsterdam	10:10	10.1
Brussels	10:10	10.1
Frankfurt	10:10	10.1
Geneva	10:10	10.1
London	10:10	10.1
Madrid	10:10	10.1
Munich	10:10	10.1
Paris	10:10	10.1
Rome	10:10	10.1
Stockholm	10:10	10.1
Vienna	10:10	10.1
Zurich	10:10	10.1

**THE POUND**

Area	Rate
Amsterdam	10.1
Brussels	10.1
Frankfurt	10.1
Geneva	10.1
London	10.1
Madrid	10.1
Munich	10.1
Paris	10.1
Rome	10.1
Stockholm	10.1
Vienna	10.1
Zurich	10.1

**Solution to Puzzle No 17,312**

CLAUDE SCOTSMAN  
A CALE SCOTSMAN  
P M D O S A C T  
C H A R L E S T O N W A R Y  
L I N E A B E R  
A N T I B I O T I C S  
R U B I C O N S H A N D O O  
U K D L E R C  
P O R K C O N F E R E N C E  
T I B E T I A N N E T S U K E  
S M E T U S E A  
P A S S P O R T U S E A N D

**AM**

**PM**

**LIGHTING-UP TIME**

**LONDON**

**YESTERDAY**

**MANCHESTER**

**NOON TODAY**







## STOCK MARKET

[illegible]



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Inside story

Geoffrey Collier, the former Morgan Grenfell Securities director awaiting trial at the Old Bailey on charges of insider dealing, has found himself out in the cold once before. Ten years ago, he accepted an offer of a job in Hong Kong from Alan Knapp, senior partner of a now-extinct stockbroking firm, Sandelson & Co. But no sooner had he done so, moving there with his wife, than the firm started to crumble round him. Knapp resigned in the summer of 1977 following problems with Gulf Arabian, a company controlled partly by Knapp and partly by the firm's Hong Kong office. A Stock Exchange investigation into the collapse of the firm, considered confidential in the halcyon days of the Stock Exchange, was never made public. In his hour of need, Collier was snapped up by Vickers de Costa Far Eastern office, where he rose quickly through the ranks.



"This is a takeover offer you cannot refuse..."

The right stuff

Guinness, which gave up its sponsorship of Queens Park Rangers at the end of last season, may soon be involved in motor racing in the United States. Public relations specialist, Guy Edwards, the ex-Formula One driver who once dragged Niki Lauda from a blazing car and almost certain death at Jarama, is trying to persuade the drinks group to become a sponsor of Jaguar's IMSA circuit sports car team, in keeping with drink driving campaigns around the world, the product expected to be emblazoned on the cars is Guinness's alcohol-free Jager, Kaliber.

Bare knuckled

Optimism ruled at the Confederation of British Industry yesterday. John Banham, 46-year-old newly-appointed director-general, faced the Press for the first time and made clear that there was to be no whingeing. In the last four years industry had sorted itself out and, while many companies had not survived, the rest were in a vastly healthier position, he said. He would also have no truck with the so-called north-south divide; to say that everything north of Birmingham was a wasteland was unacceptable. A flavour of Banham's approach to the job came with his use of a favourite American football coach: "Winning is not the most important thing, it is the only thing." That should make them quake in Whitehall.

Some people have no luck. One man who is trying to establish his claim for compensation for Russian bonds under the fund being administered by Price Waterhouse has written to the accountants explaining that the related documents were destroyed in a tornado. Adding to his plight, he says that his only surviving relative associated with the original claim was eaten by a crocodile.

Ultimate job

Less than two weeks after his surprise departure from Ward White following a "boardroom reshuffle", Roger Pedder has resurfaced at rival retailer Harris Queensway, as managing director of its Ultimate electrical division. Pedder, aged 46, the man accredited by the City with turning around Halfords, and who moved to Ward White with the car parts group when Burnham sold Halfords, went on to become chairman and chief executive of Ward White Retail UK. Pedder, who is assured of a strong City following, will also have special responsibility for new ventures at Harris. "It means that if we buy any new businesses which don't fit in with an existing operational division, they will come under my umbrella," he says. He has come a long way since he first ventured into retailing as a graduate trainee for Clark's. "I found myself selling shoes in Peter Lord's in Oxford Street," he says.

Carol Leonard

# The mysterious case of 10,000 lost in the fog

One of the great mysteries to emerge this year concerns the most important of subjects, unemployment. "The Case of the Underlying Trend" is developing into a puzzle of Holmesian proportions. And, in this particular adventure, the dog that did not bark is Lord Young of Graham, the Secretary of State for Employment, caught like the rest of us in the fog that has been emerging from his department.

Nobody doubts that unemployment is falling. Since July, the adult total has dropped by 149,300. The average monthly fall over the past six months has been 24,200.

The problem is that no official guidance has been provided on what proportion of the unemployment drop is due to growth in the economy, and what proportion to special measures.

There are four possible explanations for the current fall in unemployment:

● The strength, and the pattern, of growth in the economy.

● A slowdown in the rate at which the labour force is increasing.

● An increase in special employment, and steps to discourage people from registering as unemployed.

● Changes in the way that the unemployment statistics are calculated.

Lord Young, in his comment on the February figures, said: "There appears little doubt that the monthly fall, which has been running at about 20,000, will continue, as will our stronger economic performance."

There is, it will be noted, no attempt to link economic performance and the unemployment fall as cause and effect. But the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, has no such doubts.

"Looking ahead, I expect 1987 to be another year of balanced growth with low inflation," he said in his Budget speech.

"By then we will have registered the longest period of steady growth, at a rate approaching 3 per cent a year, that the British economy has known since the last war. Manufacturing industry, in particular, should do well in 1987. And with the non-oil economy set to grow at 3½ per cent, there is every prospect of unemployment continuing to fall throughout the year."

The message is clear, as is the contradiction. If the economy has been growing in a balanced way for several years, why has unemployment only recently begun to fall?

One possible explanation, as the Chancellor hinted, is that, in earlier years, the economy was driven along by growth in the low-employment North Sea oil sector, whereas now the non-oil part of the economy is the engine.

But when unemployment changes in response to economic growth it does so with a lag. Indeed, it is one of the lagging indicators of the economy in the Government's cyclical indicators.

For this reason, the strong growth/falling unemployment explanation suffers on two counts. First, the fall in unemployment that began in the middle of 1986 would have come about as a response to the economy's performance a year earlier, when there was actually a small downturn. Secondly, the shift towards stronger relative growth for the non-oil economy did not occur until 1986.

What about the second factor, labour supply? Here, we may be getting rather closer to a robust explanation for a non-artificial fall in unemployment. Between 1980 and 1984 the labour force grew strongly, for two main reasons. The first was that demography, and in particular the baby boom of the early 1960s, produced large increases in numbers of school leavers. The second was that participation rates for women increased very sharply.

In both of these cases, there now seems to have been a slowdown in labour supply. The bulge of early 1960s baby boomers has now mainly passed into the labour force. And female

participation rates, after very strong growth, now appear to be declining slowly.

According to Mr Paul Conway, of the Unemployment Unit, this latter effect could be as a result of the Government's Restart programme.

By tipping the balance in the labour market in favour of the long-term unemployed, Mr Conway argues, Restart may have had an effect of discouraging women not eligible for unemployment benefit from seeking work.

And so, part of the fall in unemployment must be due to steadily rising labour demand — but with little evidence of any strengthening of that demand in recent months — in combination with smaller increases in labour supply.

But how much? To answer this, we need to look a little closer at the special measures. The fall in unemployment, which began in August 1986, has gone hand-in-hand with the running of the Restart scheme. This suggests rather more than coincidence.

According to the Department of Employment, some 1,003,644 people had been interviewed under Restart at the end of February out of 1,291,038 contacted for interview. As a result of these interviews, a net 11,100 people had been disallowed from benefit, and hence removed from the unemployment figures.

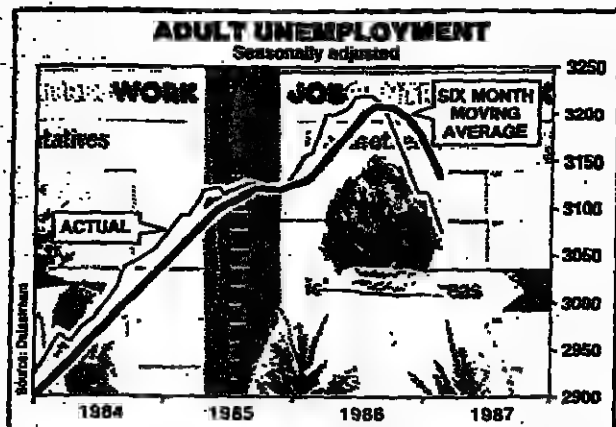
Restart is an umbrella scheme, which directs people mainly into special measures, and in particular the Community Programme. This has been adding 4,000 to 5,000 a month. The effect on the adult unemployment total between July last year and February is likely to have been around 30,000.

The Youth Training Scheme is a little more difficult as no official figures are provided for its effect on the unemployment count because it is regarded as training.

Taking all these together, a reasonable guess would be that between 70,000 and 80,000 of the 149,300 drop in adult unemployment has been due to special measures and training.

This still leaves a reasonable, 10,000 or so a month fall in the jobs total due to economic fundamentals. But, until this is spelled out a little more clearly, then the Government will remain open to the charge that all of the fall in unemployment is cosmetic.

David Smith  
Economics Correspondent



ADULT UNEMPLOYMENT  
Seasonally adjusted

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able to report a positive cash flow from operations of £11.1 million in 1986, despite a drop in the average selling price of its oil to £8.70 a barrel from £19.60 in 1985. This was done by cutting back exploration to £6.5 million, pruning staff by 28 per cent and cutting administration expenses.

True, Clyde reported a pretax loss of £1 million, compared with an £8.6 million profit in 1985. But it ended 1986 with a ratio of debt to equity (net of cash of £17 million) of only 5 per cent. This rises to 15 per cent with the recent purchases of 9.24 per cent of the Buchan oilfield and 21.7 per cent of Goel Petroleum, and is expected to remain at this level for the rest of 1987, depending on the speed of development of Wytch Farm.

Because it has bought the majority of its oil interests through a variety of deals, rather than discovering them, the carrying cost of its assets is higher than for most oil companies. It is, therefore, unusual in having to write down these assets by £16.6 million this year in the light of lower oil prices.

In 1987, Clyde plans to spend £4 to £5 million on exploration, including a long step-out well at Wytch Farm. And it expects to remain self-sufficient in cash, despite the earthquake in Ecuador which will halt its production there for the next three to six months, costing Clyde 20 per cent of 1987 cash flow.

But suddenly, while it has been busy trying to get together with Goel Petroleum, Clyde is itself beginning to look rather vulnerable to takeover. The 16.6 per cent of its share capital owned by the Moon Oil Corporation (IMOC) appeared to give some bid protection due to restrictions on the disposal of these shares, and a prohibition on IMOC from lifting its interest above 20 per cent.

The market grows daily more confident that the oil price will hold, and oil shares are doing well. Clyde rose 6p to 79p yesterday. The prospect of some spicy takeover speculation should send shares higher.

Willis Faber may well be pleased with its profit figures for 1986, showing a 17 per cent pretax increase to £74.8 million, for an average compound growth rate of 26 per cent over the past five years, but the market was not particularly impressed. Life is going to be more competitive in the world of insurance broking, so the price weakness that took the shares down from 427p to 413p yesterday may not be over.

On the income side, net retained brokerage and fee income rose by 27 per cent, and interest and dividends by 9 per cent. But the cream was taken off the cake by the 26 per cent rise in expenses to £115.9 million, and even Willis Faber knows it is going to have to run that much faster if the growth pattern is not to be checked.

Clever foreign exchange management helped swell profits by £6.8 million, and the changed accounting policy saw the contribution from the 20.8 per cent stake in Morgan Grenfell rise from £20.37 million to £25 million. But whatever the path of Morgan Grenfell's profits, Willis Faber cannot entirely escape the sentiment running against that group, which in turn partly explains Willis Faber's own share price weakness.

There are, however, more deep-seated worries. Marine business is getting tough, reflecting slower world trade and weaker oil prices; there is commercial pressure on the premium front in the aviation market.

Willis Faber remains solid enough in its field, but even if pretax profits reach £83.7 million this year, that still puts the shares on a price-earnings ratio of nearly 14. At present, that looks expensive.

Clyde Petroleum

If Clyde Petroleum is allowed to remain independent, it intends to continue making the acquisitions necessary to achieve the scale required for successful competition in the North Sea and elsewhere.

Yesterday's preliminary results show the company was

able to report a positive cash flow from operations of £11.1 million in 1986, despite a drop in the average selling price of its oil to £8.70 a barrel from £19.60 in 1985. This was done by cutting back exploration to £6.5 million, pruning staff by 28 per cent and cutting administration expenses.

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The market grows daily more confident that the oil price will hold, and oil shares are doing well. Clyde rose 6p to 79p yesterday. The prospect of some spicy takeover speculation should send shares higher.

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On the income side, net retained brokerage and fee income rose by 27 per cent, and interest and dividends by 9 per cent. But the cream was taken off the cake by the 26 per cent rise in expenses to £115.9 million, and even Willis Faber knows it is going to have to run that much faster if the growth pattern is not to be checked.

Clever foreign exchange management helped swell profits by £6.8 million, and the changed accounting policy saw the contribution from the 20.8 per cent stake in Morgan Grenfell rise from £20.37 million to £25 million. But whatever the path of Morgan Grenfell's profits, Willis Faber cannot entirely escape the sentiment running against that group, which in turn partly explains Willis Faber's own share price weakness.

There are, however, more deep-seated worries. Marine business is getting tough, reflecting slower world trade and weaker oil prices; there is commercial pressure on the premium front in the aviation market.

Willis Faber remains solid enough in its field, but even if pretax profits reach £83.7 million this year, that still puts the shares on a price-earnings ratio of nearly 14. At present, that looks expensive.

Clyde Petroleum

If Clyde Petroleum is allowed to remain independent, it intends to continue making the acquisitions necessary to achieve the scale required for successful competition in the North Sea and elsewhere.

Yesterday's preliminary results show the company was

able to report a positive cash flow from operations of £11.1 million in 1986, despite a drop in the average selling price of its oil to £8.70 a barrel from £19.60 in 1985. This was done by cutting back exploration to £6.5 million, pruning staff by 28 per cent and cutting administration expenses.

True, Clyde reported a pretax loss of £1 million, compared with an £8.6 million profit in 1985. But it ended 1986 with a ratio of debt to equity (net of cash of £17 million) of only 5 per cent. This rises to 15 per cent with the recent purchases of 9.24 per cent of the Buchan oilfield and 21.7 per cent of Goel Petroleum, and is expected to remain at this level for the rest of 1987, depending on the speed of development of Wytch Farm.

Because it has bought the majority of its oil interests through a variety of deals, rather than discovering them, the carrying cost of its assets is higher than for most oil companies. It is, therefore, unusual in having to write down these assets by £16.6 million this year in the light of lower oil prices.

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participation rates, after very strong growth, now appear to be declining slowly.

According to Mr Paul Conway, of the Unemployment Unit, this latter effect could be as a result of the Government's Restart programme.

By tipping the balance in the labour market in favour of the long-term unemployed, Mr Conway argues, Restart may have had an effect of discouraging women not eligible for unemployment benefit from seeking work.

And so, part of the fall in unemployment must be due to steadily rising labour demand — but with little evidence of any strengthening of that demand in recent months — in combination with smaller increases in labour supply.

But how much? To answer this, we need to look a little closer at the special measures. The fall in unemployment, which began in August 1986, has gone hand-in-hand with the running of the Restart scheme. This suggests rather more than coincidence.

According to the Department of Employment, some 1,003,644 people had been interviewed under Restart at the end of February out of 1,291,038 contacted for interview. As a result of these interviews, a net 11,100 people had been disallowed from benefit, and hence removed from the unemployment figures.

Restart is an umbrella scheme, which directs people mainly into special measures, and in particular the Community Programme. This has been adding 4,000 to 5,000 a month. The effect on the adult unemployment total between July last year and February is likely to have been around 30,000.

The Youth Training Scheme is a little more difficult as no official figures are provided for its effect on the unemployment count because it is regarded as training.

Taking all these together, a reasonable guess would be that between 70,000 and 80,000 of the 149,300 drop in adult unemployment has been due to special measures and training.

This still leaves a reasonable, 10,000 or so a month fall in the jobs total due to economic fundamentals. But, until this is spelled out a little more clearly, then the Government will remain open to the charge that all of the fall in unemployment is cosmetic.

David Smith  
Economics Correspondent

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## LOPEX

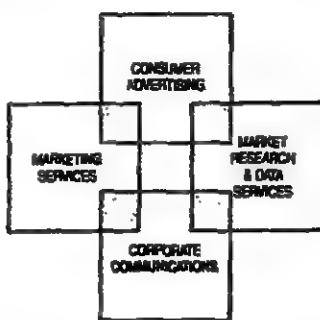
communications group

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

	Year ended December 31 1986	Year ended December 31 1985
Turnover	112,947	100,109
Profit before taxation	3,577	2,339
Profit after taxation and minority interests	1,585	918
Earnings per ordinary share	12.37p	7.73p
Dividend per share	4.2p	4.0p

The figures are extracted from unaudited annual accounts which have been or will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

- ✦ All 1986 forecasts exceeded.
- ✦ Pre-tax profit increased by 54% over 1985.
- ✦ Earnings per share increased by 60% over 1985.
- ✦ Group strategy remains one of balanced growth within four sectors in the UK and overseas.



Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts will be available after April 10 from The Secretary, LOPEx plc, Alliance House, 63 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4BH. Telephone: 01-636 0281.

## Two of five accused freed on bail in bank fraud case

From Catherine Ong, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Two of the five men charged in the \$51 billion (£300 million) National Bank of Brunei fraud case were released on bail yesterday after being detained for more than three months here.

Mr Chen Ping Fang, former NBB director, and Mr Chiew Sung Ching, an employee of Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, were granted bail of \$540,000 and \$22,500 respectively by a High Court judge. Mr Chiew's bail was slashed from the record \$510 million set by a magistrates' court in December.

Mr Chen, aged 72, a long-time employee of Tan Sri Khoo, deposited \$500,000 in shares pledged by his son, Vincent, and daughter-in-law, and \$540,000 in cash and shares from his own account.

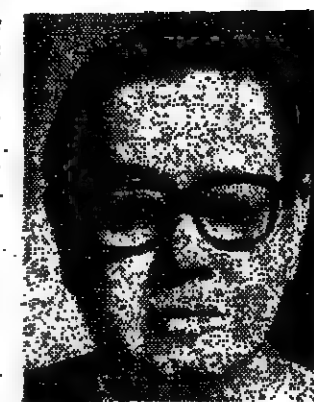
He faces seven charges, alleging criminal breach of trust, conspiracy to cheat the bank's lenders and depositors,

and false accounting. The bank was shut down by the Brunei government on November 20, after a five-month investigation which allegedly uncovered a massive fraudulent scheme to siphon money from the bank into the Khoo business empire.

Mr Chiew, who is charged in his capacity as a signatory of NBB, posted his bail in cash with help from family members who stood sureties for him.

Investigations by Brunei authorities have found Mr Chiew to be less culpable than the evidence suggested earlier, the court was told. He is accused of abetting Mr Chen and Mr Khoo Ban Hock — the bank's chairman, and son of Tan Sri Khoo — in criminal breach of trust, and conspiracy to cheat the bank's lenders and depositors.

A four-man fraud squad from Australia is assisting



Tan Sri Khoo: his employee given bail

Brunei in investigations that have extended from here to Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Australia. They are expected to complete their task within two months before the trial in September.

Observers believed that the release of Mr Chen and Mr Chiew could encourage two

auditors, Mr Andrew Peattie and his assistant, Mr Bernard Soo, to apply for bail as well. Mr Khoo was denied bail by the High Court last month.

The men given bail are to remain in Brunei and had to surrender their passports to the court. In addition, Mr Chiew is to report twice a week, and Mr Chen three times a week to the police.

Meanwhile, NBB's largest lender, the Brunei branch of the Standard Chartered Bank, has this month sent its general manager, Mr Tim McCartney, to its Penang branch. He is being replaced by Mr M G. Palin, who was the district manager based in Penang.

Mr McCartney was heading the Brunei branch when it placed a total of \$580 million in NBB, a decision believed to have originated from its London head office.

## COMPANY NEWS

## DERWENT VALLEY HOLDINGS

Year ended December 31: figures in £s. Final dividend 72.5 per cent (70 per cent) making 93.5 per cent (85 per cent) for the year. Net revenue from properties 784,429 (199,587). Profit on ordinary activities 284,522 (40,871). Tax 113,442 (16,304). Profit on ordinary activities after tax and before extraordinary items 171,080 (24,567). Extraordinary items credit (not of tax) 10,101 (438,050). Earnings per share (comparisons based on weighted average and adjusted) 5.23p (1.39p). Net assets per ordinary share (comparisons restated) £2.52 (£1.85).

EARLYS OF WITNEY: Final dividend 1p, making 1.31p for the year to January 31, 1987. Turnover £8,613,390 (£9,247,360). Gross profit £2,104,084 (£1,957,705). Operating costs £1,630,062 (£1,599,229). Other operating income nil (£29,926). Operating profit £474,022 (£388,402). Interest payable £72,078 (£84,528). Profit before tax £401,944 (£303,874). Tax £73,644 (£22,914). Extraordinary charge £50,700 (£30,089). Earnings per share 5.48p (4.16p). Dividend payable June 12.

## THE TIMES VENER

CO: Dividend 0.5p (same) for 1986. Figures in £s. Turnover 8,100,786 (7,942,945). Gross profit 1,723,708 (1,758,550). Net operating expenses 1,452,573 (1,395,397). Exceptional charge 118,826 (nil). Income from fixed asset investments 8,684 (nil). Interest payable and similar charges 101,412 (108,156). Pretax profit 59,581 (254,997). Tax 45,134 (78,589). Extraordinary charges 349,728 (nil). Earnings per share 0.10p (1.53p).

## TILBURY GROUP

The company has announced that West's Group International, a subsidiary, has agreed to sell DSF to British Hartford-Fairmont for £1,166,000 cash, including the repayment of an intra-group debt of £706,000. DSF made a pretax profit of £418,919 and net assets were £2,604,406 for the nine months to December 31.

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CLEANES: Results for the 52 weeks to December 27. Second interim dividend 18p, making 23p (20.5p). Figures in £000s. Group turnover 90,259 (89,594). Profit - drying/cleaning 7,888 (8,185) and textile rental 2,887 (2,351), making 10,775 (10,536). Income less expenses from non-trading properties 124 (182). Other interest receivable plus similar income 506 (139).

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## APPOINTMENTS

## President chosen at Reebok

Reebok International: Mr Joseph LaBonte becomes president and chief operating officer.

Great Portland Estates: Mr Danny Desmond joins the board.

Bride Hall Group: Mr Richard Peskin is appointed to the board.

Hickson International: Mr Michael Taylor is made a director.

Harris Queensway: Mr Roger Pedder becomes managing director, electrical division.

Johnson Matthey: Mr David Violett has been appointed director, planning and development.

Ashton-Tate: Mr Paul Steane becomes managing director, UK.

Michael Peters & Partners: Mr Steven Rhind-Tait joins as a director, business development.

Fiscal Properties: Mr Gordon Stafford-Robert joins the board.

Newton Trustee Services: Mr Malcolm Delahaye joins the board as technical director.

Wellington Fund Managers: Mr Arthur Boanas becomes managing director. Mr Stewart Newton and Mr Colin Harris are appointed directors.

Globe International (UK): Mr Hugh Davies joins the board.

Taunton-Cider: Mr Peter Adams will succeed Mr Geoffrey Stocks as managing director from September 1.

Unilock Holdings: Mr JE Bardwell has been appointed finance director and company secretary.

Crown House: Mr George Deacon joins the board as a non-executive director.

Coopers & Lybrand: Mr Barrie Cottingham has been appointed regional executive partner.

Norbain Electronics: Mr Peter Ryan becomes a non-executive director.

British Linen Assets: Mr Duncan Thompson joins the board.

Miller & Santhouse Opticians: Mr Greg Daveshall joins the board.

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“ We believe that independent intermediaries are well placed to give consumers the wholly objective advice they want and need.

So we welcome the strengthening of their position provided by the Financial Services Act.

Equity & Law has always sold its products in the UK almost entirely through independent intermediaries, and we are confident that they will continue to find the products best suited to their clients' needs from among those we offer.

Sir Douglas Wass GCB, Chairman

The results of our policies  
speak for themselves.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 1986

	1986 £ million	1985 £ million	Increase %
New annual premiums	51.1	45.2	13.1
New single premiums	166.4	120.1	38.6
Total premium income	380.7	301.0	26.5
Long Term Business Assets	3,591.0	2,891.4	24.2
Earnings	8,066	6,772	19.1
Dividends	8,050	6,730	19.6

\*1986 figures are fully audited.



Equity &amp; Law

If you would like a copy of the full preliminary statement and a copy of the 1986 Report and Accounts (available on April 23rd), contact The Secretary, Equity & Law Life Assurance Society plc, Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5AL.



BUSINESS SUMMARY

## Bestwood doubles its figures to £2.4m

Profits at Bestwood, the financial services and property group, more than doubled in 1986 from £929,000 to £2,426,000. Mr Tony Cole, the chairman who failed earlier this month to win a boardroom seat at Buckley's, the Welsh brewer in which the company has a 27.6 per cent stake, announced an unchanged 2p dividend on the enlarged share capital.

The figures include four months' results from Barrie Investments, acquired last September for £18 million, but the cost of the abortive bid for Country Gentlemen's Association, together with the profit on the sale of John Brown (Printers), is accounted as a £308,000 extraordinary item. It was an acquisitive year for Bestwood, and Mr Cole says the significant property developments currently being undertaken should improve the group's performance in 1987.

## New EFT fund chief

Mr David Williams, former deputy managing director of Murray Johnstone, has become chief executive of Edinburgh Financial Trust's fund management division, EFT, whose shareholders voted last week for proposals that will turn the company into an independent corporate finance and investment house in Scotland, will absorb Mr Williams' own business, Glasgow Investment Managers, into its fund management division.

## Hambro buys estate agency

Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency and retail financial services arm of the Hambro group, has acquired Robinson, Osborne & Moles, a West Midlands estate agency, bringing its network to a total of 442 offices. The company is paying £1.3 million for ROM with the first instalment of £425,000 to be paid in cash and shares. The balance will be paid in loan stock convertible into Hambro Countrywide shares.

## Tay Homes climbing fast as profits treble

Shares in Tay Homes, the Yorkshire housebuilder with a USM quote, have climbed from 303p since the end of February, and they accelerated another 11p to 423p yesterday on news that first-half profits had almost trebled from £324,000 to £590,000.

Commenting on the six months to December 31, Mr Trevor Spencer, Tay's chairman, says the company is now benefiting from the move to widen its geographical spread, particularly in its successful expansion in Scotland. The company is now starting its operations in Plymouth. Tay is lifting its interim dividend from 1.54p to 1.77p.

## '5,000 jobs to go at RO'

The unions representing industrial employees at Royal Ordnance yesterday claimed up to 5,000 jobs would have to be shed at the state-owned arms manufacturer. The Royal Ordnance National Joint Industrial Committee's trade unions said MoD and company sources had revealed projections involving staff cuts.

## Close profits jump 32%

Close Brothers Group, the merchant banking services company, increased its pre-tax profits in the half year to £11.5 million, a 32 per cent rise on £8.7 million. An interim dividend of 3p was declared. A one-for-one scrip issue is proposed. Mr Roderick Kent, the managing director, said: "Prospects remain encouraging."

## Argyll drinks offshoot sold

The Argyll Group, headed by Mr James Gulliver (left), has completed its withdrawal from the drinks industry with the sale of its subsidiary, George Morton, to Seagram UK for £14 million in cash. Morton is a wholesale distributor whose brands include OVD rum. Argyll last month sold Barton Brands, its US drinks distributor, in a management buy-out. The withdrawal from drinks followed a re-appraisal of the group's strategy after its failed attempt to acquire Distillers.

## Billings near £100m at Davidson Pearce

Billings at the marketing services group, Davidson Pearce, which boasts prestigious accounts like Marks and Spencer and Brooke Bond, fell just short of £100 million in 1986, its first full year with a quote, and lifted group profits from £3,273 million to £3,892 million.

Already one of the biggest advertising and communications groups in Britain, the company, which acquired Cosmopolitan Marketing for £11.5 million last year, plans to buy

## A record £8.8m at Johnson

By John Bell  
City Editor

Johnson Group Cleaners, which has about a quarter of the British dry cleaning market, achieved record profits of £8.82 million in 1986, an advance of 13.3 per cent on the previous year.

The chairman, Mr Philip Bolton, described the result as encouraging in view of the adverse impact of the dollar exchange rate on the US businesses. The disposal of peripheral operations also made a negative impact.

Turnover increased at an underlying rate of 7.6 per cent but earnings per share rose 16.3 per cent to 43.7p. Total dividends advanced by 12.2 per cent to 23p per share.

Significantly lower interest costs helped profits to record levels said Mr Bolton. At the year end, gearing was about 30 per cent due to disposals of surplus assets.

The group's domestic dry cleaning operations, which it claims are the largest in Britain, have benefited from redesign and refurbishment. "We are planning the refurbishment of many of our shops to the extent justified by their potential," he said.

In the US, where the Johnson group acquired six companies in 1984 and 1985, the performance of the largest, Best Cleaners, was unsatisfactory during the early part of the year.

# Incentives help to double top directors' salaries

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent



High earners: Grinstead, Rayner, MacLaurin, Kent and Harvey-Jones

Salaries of Britain's chief executives have increased by 93 per cent during the 1980s and the gap between top directors' pay and shop-floor earnings is still widening.

This is the principal conclusion drawn from the results of the latest survey of top management remuneration by Charterhouse, the merchant banking and financial services group. In the six years to 1986, manufacturing earnings rose by 84 per cent.

The survey shows boardroom basic salaries rising at 10 per cent a year, with senior management's increases averaging 7.7 per cent.

Cash incentive plans, introduced since the reduction of the highest marginal tax rates in 1979-80, have led to even greater increases for directors in many large British companies. The key factors, says Charterhouse, are the growth of performance-related payments and requirements for British salaries to be more internationally competitive.

Before 1980, says Charterhouse, it was not viable for a leading British company to try and compete with international levels of pay or offer performance-linked cash bonuses, since 75 per cent or more would go on tax.

In the six months to February, the median annual increase for board directors was 10.1 per cent, with a quarter receiving increases of 17.6 per cent or more. This compares with pay rises for the workforce as a whole of between 5 and 6 per cent.

The Charterhouse analysis was 10.1 per cent, with a quarter receiving increases of 17.6 per cent or more. This compares with pay rises for the workforce as a whole of between 5 and 6 per cent.

of more than 1,000 companies, shows the full-time chairman of a company with a turnover of more than £1,200 million is paid an average of £166,054 a year. At the other end of the scale, the head of a

company with annual sales of less than £4 million can expect about £36,000 a year.

Sir Stanley Grinstead, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, enjoyed the biggest increase in salary — 349.92 per cent — between 1980 and 1986, followed by Lord Rayner of Marks and Spencer with 338.66 per cent.

The annual salaries of Mr Ian MacLaurin of Tesco, Mr Geoffrey Kent of Imperial Group and Sir John Harvey-Jones of ICI rose by 279.34 per cent, 252 per cent and 251.64 per cent respectively.

Britain's highest-paid director is Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton Group, who overtook Mr Richard Giordano of British Oxygen when his salary doubled last year to more than £1 million.

## RISE IN DIRECTORS' EARNINGS

Company	1979/80 £	1986/87 £	% Increase (79/80=100)
Grand Metropolitan	50,380	176,289	349.92
Marks & Spencer	64,077	217,016	338.66
Tesco	42,407	118,461	279.34
Imperial	68,000	171,388	252.01
ICI	124,380	312,991	251.64
BAT	94,728	236,830	249.45
GEC	75,000	177,000	236.00
RTZ	66,000	145,983	221.20
BP	120,355	280,972	216.78
Courtaulds	65,620	128,288	192.45
GKN	82,342	145,000	176.09
BL	57,200	98,367	171.97

Source: Annual Reports

## Engineers receive £1m grant

A £1 million grant to create a new breed of engineering super-managers was announced yesterday by Mr David Sainsbury, the millionaire director of the grocery chain.

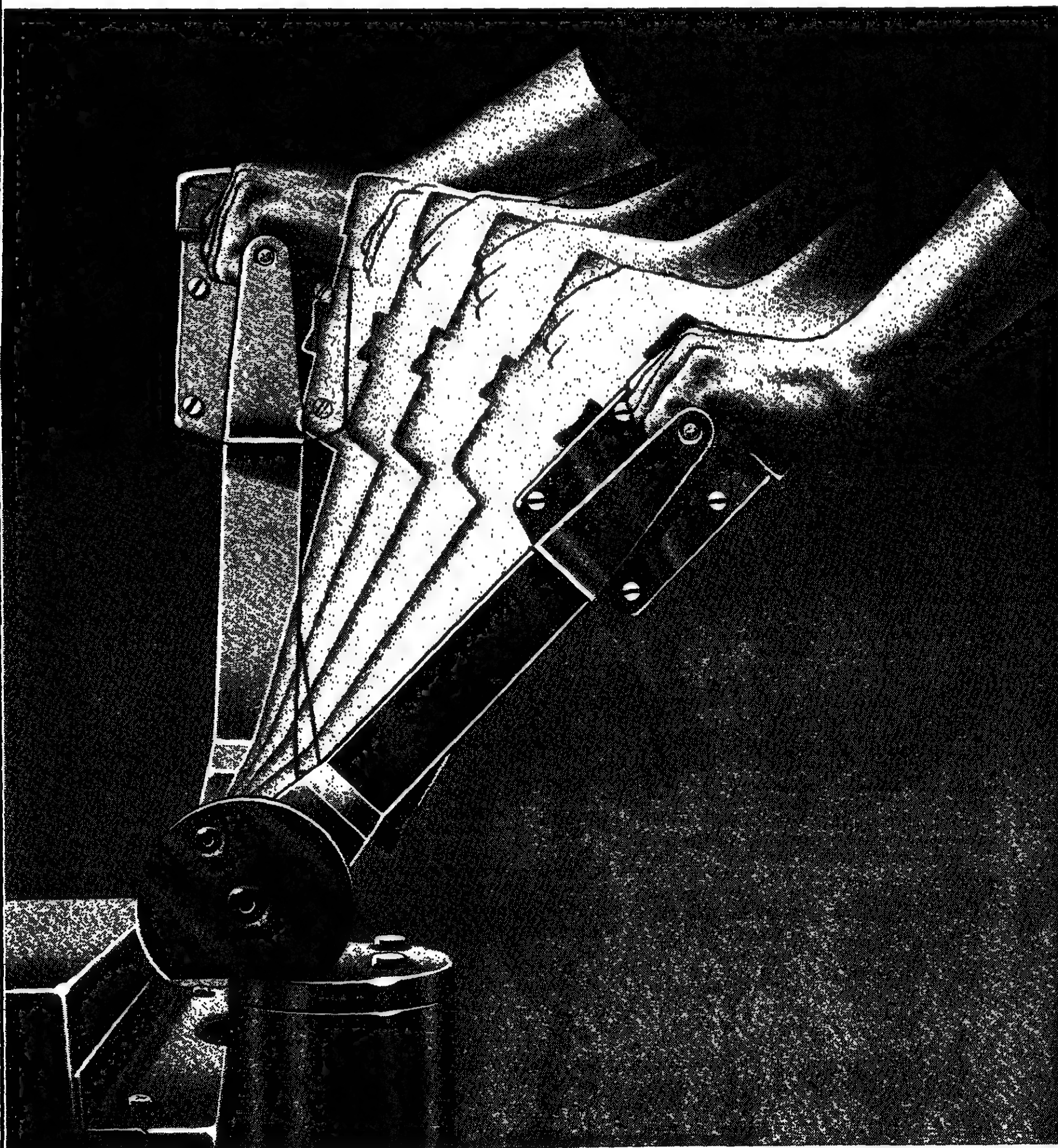
The grant, the largest of its type to be made in Britain by an individual, is being made available in four yearly tranches of £250,000 to enable engineering high fliers to study at top business schools in France and Switzerland for a degree of Master of Business Administration.

The scheme will be administered by the Fellowship of Engineering and will come from Mr Sainsbury's Gatsby Charitable Foundation, one of the Sainsbury family trusts, whose total assets are now estimated at £350 million.

Top engineering graduates, aged between 26 and 34, with a good honours degree will be eligible for a Sainsbury Management Fellowship.

Award winners will have their tuition fees and some living and travelling expenses paid and some will be offered a month at a language school to perfect their French or German. About 90 per cent of courses at international business schools are in English.

Mr Sainsbury said: "The lack of management skills among engineers cannot be left to correct itself. If it is not tackled directly there is no way that we will break out of the vicious circle that currently exists."



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## STANDARD CHARTERED PLC

## 1986 RESULTS

The Directors announce the results of Standard Chartered Group for 1986, as follows:

	1986	1985
£ million	£ million	
Trading profit	210.2	205.4
Company and subsidiaries	43.7	62.5
Share of associated companies	253.9	267.9
Profit before taxation	13.0	41.4
Taxation:	72.8	60.9
United Kingdom	10.5	23.3
Overseas	96.3	125.6
Share of associated companies	157.6	142.3
Minority interests	6.6	9.6
Earnings	151.0	132.7
Extraordinary items	(8.7)	15.7
Profit attributable to members of the Company	142.3	148.4
Dividends: Interim	19.5	16.3
Final	35.0	31.1
Profit retained	87.8	101.0
Earnings per share	97.0p	85.3p

DIVIDEND: The Directors will recommend at the Annual General Meeting on 7th May 1987, a final dividend of 22.5 pence per share, making a total distribution for 1986 of 35.0 pence per share. The final dividend will be paid on 15th May 1987, to shareholders on the Register on 16th April 1987.

**Standard Chartered**



## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	100-04	99-22	100-03	99-01
Previous day's total open interest	129-03	125-05	125-15	125-19
Previous day's total open interest	126-14	126-15	125-13	125-19
Previous day's total open interest				

	Bid	Offer	Ch
Control	245	255	
Parcial	32	33	
	108	118	
	45	49	
	62	67	
	103	128	
	32	34	
	19	21	
	23	25	
	48	51	
	112	117	

# Insurance

## Results

before taxation

Category	Value
1	£11.0m
2	£14.5m
3	£14.5m

(2) *None of the Directors has a service contract with the Bank of more than one year's duration.*

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## MARBLE ARCH W1

Bright 4th floor apartment overlooking quiet square, well kept 3 1/2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms all on suite plus guest cloakroom, large reception with balcony, fully equipped kitchen with all appliances, large private roof terrace. Ideal for summer parties. FURN/UNFURN long company let bargain - £500 pw.

## BOLTON GARDENS SW5

Home apartment in large corner building overlooking delightful square. Large drawing room, reception/hall, dining hall, master bedroom with en suite bathroom, 2nd twin bedroom, 2nd bathroom, 1 kitchen with machines. Should be seen.

## LITTLE VENICE W9

Support 3 bedroom flat only yards from Regent Canal in the desirable location, completely renovated and modernised. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 baths (1 en suite) 1 kitchen with all appliances. FURN/UNFURN long company let.

## £225 pw.

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## DE VERE GARDENS W8

Interior designed and very large flat offers the optimum of quality and style. Open Kensington Gardens, all newly decorated and beautifully furnished. 2 double bedrooms, large reception, 1 kitchen with all machines, large bathroom, 1 bath. Available for long let.

## HYDE PARK W2

Grand new prime apartment in prestigious P.A.A. overlooking the park with lift and 24 hr. concierge. 4/5 beds 2 1/2 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms on suite (1 with whirlpool) + cloakroom, beautiful kitchen with all appliances. Brand new carpets, curtains etc.

## UNFURNISHED £200 pw

## WIMLTON SW19

Immaculate 2 bed town house close town centre, extremely well decorated and furnished. Large reception/dining, large well designed kitchen with all machines, 2 bedrooms (1 en suite), garden, 2nd floor large long company let.

## £225 pw

## ASHLEY GARDENS SW1

Unique opportunity to live in this luxury furnished flat close to Victoria/Westminster. Previously occupied by pair of the realm. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 elegant large reception halls for entertaining, 1 kitchen with appliances, entry room, 1 bathroom. Ideal for long overseas company let.

## 450 pw

## KNIGHTSBRIDGE SW3

Beautifully furnished apartment in the heart of Knightsbridge. Ideal for sleeping and entertaining. 2 bedrooms, double reception, bath, shower room, 1 kitchen with machines. Long let.

## £275 pw

## HILLGATE PLACE W8

Magnificent house owned by an interior designer with spiral staircase and large hall. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en suite), large family kitchen with dining room, 1 bathroom. Modern quality furnishings. Avail for long let.

## £425 pw

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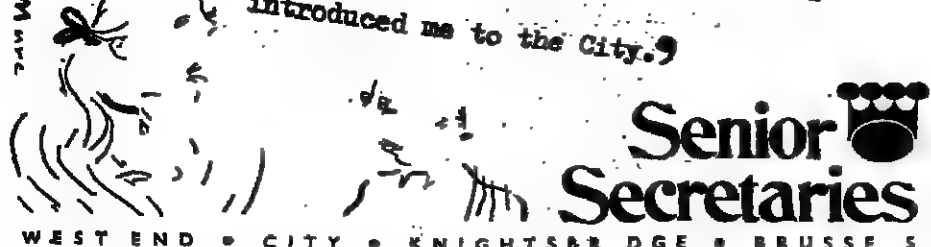
biggest banking centre The result? More jobs

Right now hundreds of City firms are still recruiting hard long after the Big Bang exploded new life into The Square Mile

The result? More jobs

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## FURTHER YOUR CAREER

£13,500 package

Fantastic opportunity to join a leading Merchant Bank in its vibrant Capital Markets Division. Working for two very busy executives you will become thoroughly involved in a wide variety of projects from extensive travel arrangements to research work. Energy and initiative essential in this challenging role plus genuine desire to progress and learn the business. A background in Corporate Finance an advantage. Skills 80/60 Hours 30

**Senior Secretaries**

## PR in the CITY

to £12,000

Do you have a financial and/or PR advertising background with first class organisational skills? If so our client a small expanding financial PR consultancy would like to meet you. You will be entirely responsible for the smooth running of the office, liaise closely with clients and the press and organise meetings and press conferences. Good presentation, public and confidence are essential as well as secretarial skills of 90/60 plus WP experience. Age 25+

01-606 1611

**Senior Secretaries**

## TEMPORARY SENIOR SECRETARIES

Your high calibre senior level experience including shorthand or audio skills are what our clients are looking for on both a temporary and permanent basis. Age is immaterial but word processing, particularly on Wordstar IBM Displaywriter IBM Displaywrite III and Multimate is more than an advantage. In return we offer you high rates (reviewed regularly), Director level bookings and a caring and professional service

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## INTERNATIONAL STOCKBROKERS

Salary to £12,000 + package

This is a prestigious post requiring senior level experience and skills working at main board level for a dynamic young director. Your eye for details willingness to become involved and confident approach will be highly prized in this fast moving environment dealing with Japan and Far East. You will co-ordinate a busy work schedule and have the ability to work effectively in his absence. Financial experience an advantage. Age 25+ skills 80/60

01-606 1611

**Senior Secretaries**

## SECRETARY/PA

Director of lively business Publishing Company needs a self starter and good organiser with secretarial skills 100/60 who wants to take responsibility and become involved in all aspects of the business. Salary £10,000 pa

Send CV to: L. Thompson, Lafferty Publications Ltd, Peartree Court, London EC1R 0DS (No Agencies)

## HOUSE OF FRASER REQUIRE A SECRETARY

For our Personnel Department Based at Head Office Victoria this is a busy and varied position dealing with the day to day personnel enquiries typing of correspondence contracts and reports. Excellent typing, with WP experience and shorthand skills are required. In return we are offering a competitive salary and discount throughout the House of Fraser stores. Please telephone 01 828 9044 or write with full curriculum vitae to

The Personnel Department, House of Fraser, Head Office, 1 Hovick Place, London SW1P 1BH

## FIGURE HAPPY

£11.5k + full banking benefits

PA Secretarial Recruitment Consultants

Our client, a major City player is seeking an efficient PA/Secretary to assist a key director in managing a new Sales division. As he operates on an international basis he will delegate a great deal and rely on his PA to hold the fort in his absence. An aptitude for figurework will enable you to become more involved in his work and sound secretarial skills will enable you to dispense with more routine work efficiently. The position would suit a well-educated, committed and ambitious person who thrives in a busy and demanding environment. Age indicator 26-30

skills 100/60 Package includes 3% mortgage bonus and BUPA  
Please telephone 01-439 6477

**Mac Blain Nash**

## DIRECTORS SECRETARY/PA

Experienced secretary 25-40 required for City based Property Company. Applicants should be neat in appearance and have an intelligent understanding of their work. They must also have accurate shorthand typing and be capable of helping in a small office. Salary according to age and experience up to £12,500

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to  
**A CAIRD & SONS PLC**  
126/129 CHEAPSIDE  
LONDON EC2V 6BT  
01-606 1113

## SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Estate Agency - West End

This prestigious rapidly expanding company is seeking an experienced and highly motivated individual to take control over the secretarial and administrative functions of their office. A high level of secretarial skills is essential. Salary £10,500

Please reply in the first instance with CV to  
**ASTON CHASE LTD**  
40 1/2 York Street, London, W1

## CONVEYANCING SEC

£11,000 +

Eminent City partner seeks conveyancing sec. Must enjoy administration/organising too! Designer offices plus every single perk in the book. Legal experience essential

242-7654  
**Michelle - The Legal People Rec Cons**

## PROPERTY

£13,000 +

A successful property development company handling residential and commercial properties is looking for a capable and self-confident PA to work for the Managing Director and help him in his small company which is an attractive moveable house in Mayfair. Shorthand useful and necessary. Age 25-40

01-499 0082

**Senior Secretaries**

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

£13,500 - W1

An excellent opportunity has arisen for someone with a sound knowledge of French to work as an assistant to the Managing Director of a major international company. You will be organising all the board meetings and corporate order and report writing. Excellent salary and pension package. You will be responsible for a junior secretary and a small personal office of secretarial work. Age 30-45. Shorthand useful. WP experience essential

01-499 0082

**Senior Secretaries**

## MARKET RESEARCH

North London

£12,000

This fast moving company with a growing client list is looking for an Office Manager/Secretary. You will need to be able to organise staff (two) manage the office and the secretaries and type reports of their work. This does not involve figure typing, but will involve a lot of fun helping companies to get their marketing and business strategies into place. We are located in the World Trade Centre complex in St Katharine Docks and are currently expanding our operation with the appointment of a Managing Director

01-499 0082

**Senior Secretaries**

## Judith and Sally are leaving.

Sadly, two of my key Personal Assistants are leaving in the next couple of months. Judith to have a baby and Sally to make a new life in France. The success of this operation which turns over about £800,000 in consultancy fees is definitely related to the excellent team of people I have around me. We work long hours but have a lot of fun helping companies to get their marketing and business strategies into place. We are located in the World Trade Centre complex in St Katharine Docks and are currently expanding our operation with the appointment of a Managing Director

Judith has been with me 7 years as my Personal Assistant and Sally has been running a series of special projects for the past 18 months. Both have extremely good secretarial skills. They will be sorely missed and so I am now looking for

1. Secretary/PA to the Chairman - Salary £15,000 p.a.

I need a very competent PA with excellent secretarial skills, particularly shorthand, backed by an ability to cope with a rather frenetic style of operation as well as being able to work on own initiative

2. Secretary/PA to the Managing Director Salary £13,800 p.a.

This job will be very similar to the above but will also include the running of various special projects, eg handling membership and visitor co-ordination of three separate business clubs

3. Typist/Receptionist Salary £10,800 p.a.

Fast, accurate word processing skills required, as well as the ability to run the front office, control the contact bank, and provide general catering and secretarial support

Personality, appearance and a sense of humour are important to all the above positions. We work in a very small but pleasant and lively environment and therefore there is a strong emphasis on being a team member. We use IBM PCs and so candidates should be attuned to using a word processor.

# LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

## PA/Company Administrator

Mercuri Urval Europe's leading Management Consultancy in the field of Selection and Management Development, seeks to recruit a Company Administrator/PA to our Managing Director in central Harrow. Reporting to the Managing Director you will, in addition to providing the vital support expected of a professional PA, be responsible for co-ordinating and overseeing the Administration and Management information systems of our centres based in Manchester, Bristol and Harrow. Probably in your early 30's with a good level of education, a proven record of

success in a responsible administrative post and some PA experience, you will, above all, have the initiative and flexibility necessary to rise to the challenge of a role that covers all aspects of administration from the running of a company car fleet, through the recruitment and training of junior staff to liaison with external Solicitors, Accountants and our international sister companies

Applicants should send a CV giving full career details to the Managing Director, Mercuri Urval Limited, Spencer House, 29 Grove Hill Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3BN quoting ref no 522.

**Mercuri Urval**

## GRADUATE INTO FINANCE!

TO £15,000 + BONUS

Do you have the ambition to move into research and a real interest in Finance? Our client, a leading firm of stockbrokers in EC2, seeks a confident and professional graduate of A Level/degree calibre to co-ordinate and monitor research material. The ideal candidate should have a City background and/or a knowledge of publishing. Rummy shorthand and accurate typing are required. Age preferred 22-28. The excellent package includes a generous bonus

Please call 01-631 0479

**Seer Selection** RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## LEAVING COLLEGE? DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND...

Looking for that first job is an important step in your secretarial career. At Seer Selection we can help you make the right decision by finding the best job for you. We take time to discover your special aptitudes and interests and can talk to you about a wide variety of positions in top London companies. If you have sound secretarial skills and would like to know more about the opportunities available, call us today!

Please call 01-631 0479

**Seer Selection** RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## TOP FLIGHT RECEPTIONIST

c. £12,000

This is a position where first impressions really count. Our client, a small and highly successful firm of financial advisors, seeks a responsive and poised and able to greet their prestigious clients. Based in luxurious offices near St Pauls, you will be a key member of a friendly, professional team, your sophisticated presentation, excellent telephone manner and accurate typing will be well rewarded. Age 25-40

Please call 01-631 0479

**Seer Selection** RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## BUSINESS AFFAIRS SECRETARY ARISTA LABEL & RCA MUSIC

A major record label and a leading publishing company offering the kind of career opportunities and development that only an organisation of our scale can

We require a Secretary with WP experience to join our Business Affairs Department, which handles the negotiation, drafting and administration of artists contracts as well as other legal matters

You'll be a self starter with good organisational skills, and the strength of personality to cope with a highly pressurised environment such as the record industry

You will need to be a competent Wang Operator, a legal background would be useful although not essential

We're offering a competitive salary, negotiable according to experience, and a generous benefits package. Write now with full career details to Jill Berry, Personnel Officer RCA/ Arista Limited, 1 Bedford Avenue, London WC1B 5DT

**RCA ARISTA**

## BTG British Technology Group

## SECRETARY

Step into the world of medical innovation

Are you a secretary presently working in a medical technical or similar environment? Do you feel that your skills and experience are not fully appreciated? If so we may have the ideal position for you.

British Technology Group BTG helps universities polytechnics government research laboratories and other institutions to develop and transfer to industry commercially promising technology resulting from their work. BTG licences this technology to companies throughout the world

We need someone to work for our Pharmaceuticals Division. It is a fast moving environment and you must be able to cope with a range of duties under pressure and on behalf of executives who are frequently away on business. Your shorthand should be good enough to type 100 wpm and word processing experience is useful.

Interested? If you are please forward your curriculum vitae for my attention or telephone me for an application form on 01 403 6666 Miss E Pitts British Technology Group 101 Newington Causeway London SE1 6BL

## The Polytechnic of North London

Today's Polytechnic of North London is one of the Capital's major educational institutions with a complement of more than 7000 students on full time sandwich or part time courses and an academic staff of 500. We face the future with confidence. For in addition to developing our already established centres of excellence we are committed to opening up our resources to a far wider audience than ever before becoming for our students and our personnel alike a polytechnic for the whole community. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer and therefore particularly welcome applications from women ethnic minorities and the disabled

## PA/SECRETARY TO THE DEAN OF THE BUSINESS SCHOOL

An experienced and efficient PA/Secretary is required to oversee the work of the Secretarial and clerical staff of the Business School and to act as Personal Assistant/Secretary to the Dean. Applicants should have excellent secretarial skills including Shorthand and Audio. He/She should be experienced in or able to demonstrate a willingness and aptitude to learn the skills associated with new office technology. Applicants will also need to demonstrate a high level of organisational skills, good interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to work as a member of a small team.

Salary £9060 £10335 inclusive. Application forms and further details are available from The Personnel Office, Holloway Road, London N7 8DB. Telephone: 020 5813 (24-hour answering service). Closing date for the receipt of applications is 10/4/87

## DESIGN P.A. £13,500

Drive in an incredibly busy environment as PA to the MD of this internationally successful architectural design practice. Facilities: secretarial skills 100/60 stylish grooming good education and at least 3 years experience at a senior level. Beautiful office. Age 24-30

## FASHION CAREER £10,000

As secretary to the Buying Director of this young fashion label you will liaise with buyers from top stores and keep ahead on current trends whilst using your excellent secretarial and administrative skills 90/60. Age 24+

## PERSONNEL £11,500

Whilst providing full secretarial back up to the senior Director of Personnel at this international mood label you will co-ordinate the activities in the policy making department, organise overseas travel and consultancy visits with VIP's. Excellent secretarial and WP skills 100/60. Mayfair based. Age 25-35

## Handle Recruitment

10 New Bond St, London W1  
01-493 1184



# LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

## Receptionist/ Clerk Typist

SW1

Our client, is the London office of a well known public company operating in worldwide markets, so first impressions are of paramount importance.

They are currently seeking a mature person to act as Receptionist and also to be involved in a variety of general administrative duties including some typing.

To be considered you should possess a good appearance, tact, poise, have a pleasant telephone manner and a helpful, efficient approach.

It is also essential that you live within the immediate London area.

Salary will be according to age and experience and fringe benefits will include 25 days' annual leave.

To apply please write with full CV, including details of current salary, quoting Ref 9611/TM to Austin Knight Advertising (UK) Limited, 17 St Helens Place, Bishopsgate, London EC3A 6AS.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter.

**Austin Knight Advertising**

## PA to Senior Partner to £13,000

Robson Rhodes, a major firm of Chartered Accountants, require an experienced, motivated Secretary to work for the Deputy Managing Partner.

This is more than a 9-5 job and involves total commitment. You will be given the chance to demonstrate your organisational abilities and will be expected to work on your own initiative.

Candidates will be 25+, enjoy a busy environment and be able to liaise with all levels of staff. You will need excellent skills (110/80 wpm + audio) and word processing experience would be an advantage.

Please apply sending a detailed cv to:

**ROBSON RHODES**

Chartered Accountants

Miss J. Wilkinson, Personnel Officer  
186 City Road, London EC1V 2NU

## Executive Secretary Salary to £9,500

The Worldwide Headquarters of ICL is based in Putney. We require a mature, well-educated secretary to provide a full secretarial and administrative service to the Assistant Company Secretary.

This is a busy senior secretarial position within which there is a requirement to produce a high volume of letters and reports using the ICL 8800 Word Processor.

It is a role for a person who has a keen eye for detail. An interest in Company Law would be an advantage.

Our ideal candidate will be aged 25+ and will have several years secretarial experience at a senior level, preferably in a large organisation.

Your qualifications will include 'O' Level English, shorthand and 60 wpm typing at RSA Stage III.

If you are interested in this vacancy please telephone for an application form or write with CV to: Liz Crowson, ICL, ICL House, 1 Putney High Street, Putney SW15 1SW. Telephone: 01-788 7272, ext. 2336.

**ICL**

We should be talking to each other.

A MEMBER OF THE STC PLC GROUP

## PERSONNEL TO £11,500

Young go-ahead Personnel Officer of large International Investment Co. in the City needs an organised and enthusiastic Assistant. Your responsibilities will entail liaising with all levels of staff, arranging interviews world-wide, handling highly confidential material and dealing with your own correspondence. If you enjoy a stimulating environment and using your administrative and personnel skills to the full, this could be the career move you've been waiting for. 100hnd/50hnd/WP - A's. Age 23-25. Please call 437 6032

**HOBSTONES**  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## SECRETARY OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR FOR SMALL EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHER

A varied and busy position requiring a top-notch candidate to organize the work of five executives, WP and audio, very fast accurate typing, real organizational ability and the desire to work in young, small office environment are necessary. Age late 20's plus. Salary £10,000 + a/c.

Please send CV to:  
Doug Davidson, Filmmen Ltd,  
Lingual House, Beavor Lane,  
Hammermith W6 9AR.

## SECRETARY/PA

Required for Park Lane luxury Mercedes Benz dealers specializing in limousines to Royal Families and Heads of State worldwide. Age 25-30 years. Bookkeeping experience would be an advantage. Excellent salary for the right person. Send CV to: The Managing Director, Trasco Int. Plc, 65-67 Park Lane, London W1Y 3DF. Tel: 01-629 7779

## SECRETARY/PA £10,000 - £11,000 pa

Impeccable secretary/PA required to assist busy MD of thriving computer services company in Bayswater. Career prospects potentially excellent for right person.

Contact Leonie on 727 3481

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION CARDIOTHORACIC INSTITUTE

Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

Personal secretary to professor and director of department specialising in asthma and allergy research. Duties include typing of general, medical and educational correspondence, scientific manuscripts, and research grant applications, and organizing postgraduate teaching courses, as well as routine office administration. Previous medical experience not essential, although flexibility, initiative, accuracy and commitment are important. Preference given to applicants with proven secretarial skills in a comparable environment. WP experience an advantage but training can be given. Salary from £9,000. Written applications to:

Secretary,  
Cardiothoracic  
Institute,  
Brompton Hospital,  
Fulham Road,  
London,  
SW3 6HP

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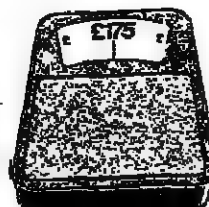
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for temporary office staff when you complete 4 continuous weeks work with Office Overload this Summer



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## SECRETARY

### WE'LL VALUE YOUR INDEPENDENCE

£11,000 + pa EXCELLENT BENEFITS

If you're the sort of secretary who relishes being left in charge - you'll find working for our local Director of Overseas Investment a challenge.

He's abroad quite a bit - leaving you to organise and manage the office in his absence - and the tight schedules of his appointments and travel arrangements while here. There's a lot of general support work he'll leave to you - responsibilities which will mean you must be of 'A' level standard with good secretarial experience and strong communication skills. Experience of using a Word Processor is essential and shorthand would be advantageous.

In addition to an attractive salary, we offer a large range of benefits, including concessionary mortgage facilities, non-contributory pension and medical health insurance.

Interested? Please contact Ann Goldie for an application form on 01-928 7822.

Or write to her with a full C.V. at: Investors in Industry plc, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP.

**3i**

THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY.

### ADVERTISING

£12,500 + PROFIT SHARE  
Great opportunity and account handling are part of this role. As the partner's P.A. you will be totally responsible for the smooth running of the office, coordination & administration. A stress of honour and excellent sec. skills are the only pre-requisites.

CITY: 01 481 2345  
WEST END: 01 488 2264

**abbatt**

### TO GEAR?

£10,000 + BENEFIT  
A superb career opportunity for a mature, experienced, and confident person to act as a PA to a senior manager in a large financial institution. The role involves a wide range of duties including managing travel arrangements, client liaison at all levels and dealing with confidential work. If you are flexible and self-motivated call now.

CITY: 01 481 2345  
WEST END: 01 488 2264

**abbatt**

### PROPERTY

£10,200  
This expanding investment company are seeking a Secretary to manage their Property Executive. Good administrative skills, a pleasant personality, common sense and the ability to work on your own initiative are essential within this busy office atmosphere. Early review and ext. props.

CITY: 01 481 2345  
WEST END: 01 488 2264

**abbatt**

### STRIKE IT RICH

£11,500 + BENEFIT  
Large Int. Oil Co. require French speaking Senior Sec. to work in their London office. Sec. and typing a must, as is the ability to organize and deal with your own enquiries. Total involvement more than just secretarial. Fantastic salary, excellent benefits and career growth.

CITY: 01 481 2345  
WEST END: 01 488 2264

**abbatt**

### PA IN PR

£12,000  
Enjoy working as a top PA/SEC to a dynamic MD in a large Financial Company. If you want creative and have excellent typing, your progression is assured. This is a fantastic opportunity not to be missed.

CITY: 01 481 2345  
WEST END: 01 488 2264

**abbatt**

### 5★ HOTEL

£10,000  
Work in a superb environment and manage all incoming calls. Working at a 5★ Hotel level, use your discretion & top organizing skills to keep a smooth running office. Accurate well presented, keen at all levels & a levels a must.

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WEST END: 01 488 2264

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MEDIA - FINANCE - ADVERTISING - SALES - PERSONNEL - MEDIA - FINANCE

## International Communications £12,000

Do you want to be part of a business of the future? This fast growing and professional young communications company is in the forefront of technology. As PA to their Director of Corporate Affairs, you will assist him in planning and organising the company's dynamic future growth. He will rely on your initiative, organisational abilities and good secretarial skills.

If this is the opportunity you've been waiting for, please ring us on 01-439 6021 and we will tell you more.

Age: 23-30 Skills: 100/60

**HAZELL-STATION**

01-439 6021

MEDIA - FINANCE - ADVERTISING - SALES - PERSONNEL - MEDIA - FINANCE

### SECRETARY/PA to DEPUTY DIRECTOR

£9,000 - £10,000

CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC is a private limited company registered as an Educational Charity. It provides a range of Higher Education in the City and its environs. The Institute operates within the policy framework of that authority. Due to several occasions the now have a vacancy for an experienced PA/Secretary to support the Deputy in our Chief Executive's office. Known as the Provost.

Salary on appointment will be £9,000 p.a. or £9,315 p.a. on an incremental scale rising to £10,335 p.a. Good conditions of service include generous holiday provision.

If you have good secretarial skills, are capable of organising administrative duties on your own initiative, have some experience of providing support to top management, and would like to know more about this interesting opportunity, please write on a postcard for further particulars and an application form to the Deputy Personnel Officer (Recruitment), City of London Polytechnic, 117-119 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7DU. Telephone reference 877/38.

THE POLYTECHNIC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

We are actively committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all. We look forward to receiving suitable applications from all sections of the community which will be considered on merit, regardless of sex, race, ethnic origin, marital status, responsibility for dependants, or disability.

## In Search of Excellence Pure Reception - £9,500

We are looking for an intelligent, elegant and sparkling Receptionist who can chaperone VIP clients including world leaders in champagne production and fashion design. This famous Advertising Agency is a world leader in its field and has a superb record for looking after its own people. Some previous reception experience is essential. Age to 28 years. To discuss this exclusive opportunity please call 01-493 5787.

**GORDON-YATES**

Recruitment Consultants

## THE LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

require a Personal Assistant to work for the Project Manager in charge of the Technical Department. Good shorthand, typing and audio skills plus knowledge of lawn tennis. Candidate must be an efficient organiser, capable of working on own, and also running the Department in Project Manager's absence. Pleasant personality, good with people; knowledge of tennis useful, but not essential. Good salary for right applicant depending on experience.

Please apply with C.V. to: Mrs C. Hall, The Lawn Tennis Association, The Queen's Club, West Kensington, W14 9EG.

## PART-TIME SECRETARY

Age 30+ to 24 hours per week £7,500  
essential for increasing position in insurance broking. Candidates should have excellent secretarial and organisational skills and preferably have some knowledge of the German language. Please apply to: Lawrence Dawson, NAFCO Insurance Brokers Ltd, 18 Mansell Street, London E1 8AA. Telephone: 01-481 4444

## HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION

Specialist Publishing House in W1 requires fully experienced Administrator for Diary Department.

Responsibilities to include:

- Order Processing and Invoicing
- Stock Records
- Production and Marketing Accruals
- List Management
- Customer queries by correspondence and telephone

Knowledge of Wang Word Processor useful - but will train.

The successful candidate should be between 28-45, numerate, with good telephone manner and be able to work with small friendly team under extreme pressure.

Good salary, 4 weeks holiday, Pension Scheme etc.

Applications with CV to:

Linda Robinson  
Diary Publisher  
Professional Publishing Limited  
7 Swallow Place  
London W1R 8AB  
Tel: 409 3322

(No Agencies)

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR YOU!

### ASSISTANT TO CO-ORDINATOR

£9,500+

Graduate or mature person, with excellent secretarial and administrative skills including use of micro, and two years' experience required to run the office and assist in organising a variety of activities for members of this dynamic professional network association. Good career/development opportunities.

### JUNIOR SECRETARY/ADMIN ASSISTANT

with one years office experience including micros, to work with above assistant on many interesting tasks.

### BOOKKEEPER

Part-time 4 days a month

to handle preparation of accounts for processing by outside bureau.

Apply in writing to The Co-ordinator, Association for Management Education and Development, Based at the Polytechnic of Central London, 35 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LS.

Telephone 01-486 5811 ext 258

## £10,000

But the right person's share of profits will increase this to £15,000pa

Prospects beyond this, too.

Small dynamic expanding company seeks cheerful, numerate, business like person; good with people but also with detail; hardworking; responsible; able to take charge. Age 24 - 30, graduate or A levels a must.

DO NOT apply unless you meet all these requirements: Building Society, Insurance or Estate Agency experience a plus, or of buying your own home.

Phone JANE TAIT on 01 724 6032.

## FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS' ADVISORY SERVICE,

18 Seymour Place, LONDON W1.

NO AGENCIES

## SENIOR SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANCY

Senior Secretary required for busy public relations consultancy. The ideal candidate will be intelligent and committed, with excellent secretarial skills, high level organisational ability and able to deal capably with clients and the media. Candidates will ideally be aged 20-30.

Apply in writing with CV to:

Lucy Brooks  
The Communication Group Plc  
2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings  
Dartmouth Street  
London SW1H 9BP

NO AGENCIES

## Stratospheric!

£12,000

Step into a fast-climbing career with this mega-successful PR company. Over the last few years they have developed a sparkling reputation for flair, creativity and stunning results. Now their high-flying MD seeks a strong, outgoing kindred spirit to help him pilot the company into the future. Experience in PR, advertising or similar is essential - as is a capacity for pressure and responsibility. Excellent skills (100/50) and confident, outgoing personality? Call today on 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

**MERRYWEATHER**

## BEST SELLER

£10,000

Join this leading publishing house as Secretary to their Production Director. They specialise in high quality art books. Lots of contact with authors and the public as you answer queries and ensure the books get into the shops on time. You should be well educated with 90/50 skills.

Please telephone 01 240 3511

**Elizabeth Hunt**

Recruitment Consultants

2-3 Bedford Street London WC2

## MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

EC1

Experienced Secretary/PA required to work for Director, West Smithfield EC1 area. Must be fully experienced in all skills, with pleasant personality. Tact and diplomacy in dealing with visitors essential. Good salary and benefits. For further details contact:

(0908) 74941 Ext 324.

## PA/ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY TO PARTNER

Watts & Partners, Chartered Building Surveyors, require an experienced PA/administrative secretary to one of their senior partners based in their St. James's office. Apart from full secretarial services this post offers considerable scope for someone who can handle the administration of a small office.

A minimum of 5 years experience is required preferably in a professional office, together with shorthand, audio and word processing skills. A competitive salary is offered together with other benefits.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to

Mrs Gillian Thalassinos  
Partnership Secretary  
Watts & Partners  
10 Independents Road  
Blackheath  
London  
SE3 9LF

## W.H. NEWSON GROUP

### SECRETARY/PA TO FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

£10,000

W.H. Newson are a thriving progressive group importing and merchandising a wide range of timber and DIY products through companies in central and south London.

This interesting, varied job is based at our head office in a pleasant period house near Sloane Square and Victoria.

The full range of secretarial skills is required and duties include involvement in the financial work of the director.

Applicants should have good experience in a senior secretarial post preferably with some bookkeeping or related figure involvement. They should be seeking a company with a friendly, informal style.

Please send CV, to: W. Clarke-Jones, Personnel Manager, W.H. Newson Group, 180 Ebury St, London SW1. Tel: 730-9393.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR A FAST MOVING SPORTS MANAGEMENT COMPANY

If so, MMS, The Mark McCormack Organisation is looking for a WP operator with audio and fast typing. Duties will include typing proposals and contracts and liaising with members of staff on various projects. Salary negotiable. To begin mid April.

If you think you would like to know more about this position please call or send CV to:

Tricia Smith  
The Mark House  
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with a multinational company in the City who are currently seeking a secretary with excellent audio/TP for one of their top development executives. This is a varied position and requires good secretarial skills and general administration experience. Ideally you will be unflappable with a calm approach to your work coupled with good interpersonal skills. A salary of £10,000+ will be offered together with pension scheme, SFL, sub restaurant & flexi-hours and the prospects are excellent.

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Please address a comprehensive C.V. to: Nigel Corby, Personnel Manager - Coatings, BASF Coatings + Inks Limited, Colham Mill Road, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 7AS.

## BASF

## BILINGUAL SECRETARIES

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A City-based Middle Eastern bank wishes to recruit a secretary with fluency in Arabic and English. The successful candidate should possess fast typing (shorthand is not essential) and some computer experience. Reporting to the economist, duties will involve a wide range of secretarial and administrative functions as well as the preparation and proof-reading of publications.

ITALIAN - CITY £12,000

A secretary, totally fluent in English and Italian, is sought by a City-based Italian Bank. The position as secretary to two Business Development Managers involves considerable use of language skills. Working closely with the Accountant, shorthand is not required but numeracy and accurate figure typing is essential.

Please contact Alison McGeigan, Jonathan Wren International (Bilingual Secretarial Division), 170 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LX.

Tel: (01) 623 1266  
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## Two vacancies exist for ADMINISTRATORS

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Duties for the above positions will include setting-up information retrieval systems for clients, reference and staffing records, desk work on assignments and occasional attendance at conferences.







Law Report March 25 1987

# Sentencing in welfare fraud cases

Regina v Stewart (Livingstone)  
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Farquharson and Mr Justice Gatehouse  
[Judgment March 24]

Guidance on sentencing for fraud related to state welfare benefits was given by the Court of Appeal when judgment was given in nine cases involving fraud on the public purse.

The Court of Appeal allowed six appeals against sentence, including that of Livingstone Stewart, aged 31, of Eldon Road, Clapton, London, and rejected three applications for leave to appeal.

Mr David Cuttle, assigned by the Registrar for Criminal Appeals, for Stewart.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the practice of sentencing practice was not without difficulties.

Expenditure on welfare benefits in 1985-86 was £39.1 billion. The risk of fraud was a serious problem. The most vulnerable points were supplementary benefit and unemployment benefit.

A sharp drop in prosecutions for social security offences - 30,116 in 1980-81 and 13,084 in 1983-84 - was due to a change of policy. Now the policy was to prosecute only those cases involving small amounts not to be prosecuted except in the cases of special features such as repeated fraud or the need to provide a deterrent for a particular type of fraud prevalent in a particular locality.

The most common method of enforcement was warning and recovery. The welfare benefits fraudster was in a very vulnerable position vis-à-vis the victim.

His Lordship considered section 55 of the Social Security Act 1986, which was to come into force in April, replacing previous provisions.

Their Lordships had gone into those matters at some length to show that only a small proportion of such offences were dealt with in the crown court and to demonstrate that the deterrent effect of any crown court sentence was unlikely to be great.

Anyone minded to embark on such fraud, unless he had a large scale operation in mind or the fraud was blatant, was unlikely to find himself in the crown court. Of course, as in all fraud cases, there might be a variety of mitigating circumstances and in particular a proper discount for a plea of guilty should always be given. Those cases bore little relation to the average offender in the area.

The total of those found guilty of social security fraud offences in magistrates' courts in England and Wales in 1985 was 6,368 of whom 17 were committed for sentence. Of the remaining 6,351, 0.2 per cent were absolutely discharged, 13 per cent were conditionally discharged, 7 per cent were made the subject of a probation order, 59 per cent were fined, 10 per cent were made the subject of community service orders, 6.5 per cent were given fully suspended sentences of imprisonment, 2.5 per cent were sentenced to suspended terms of imprisonment and the remainder were the subject of a variety of disposals.

The crown court statistics did not distinguish between welfare benefit fraud and other types of fraud charged under section 15 of the Theft Act 1968. However, in order to qualify for prosecution at all, the offence had to be something other than minor.

The offences involved the dishonest abstraction of honest taxpayers' money and were not to be treated lightly. They were easy to commit and difficult and expensive to track down. However, it had to be remembered that they were non-violent, non-sexual and non-frightening crimes.

In some cases immediate unsuspended imprisonment (or youth custody) was unavoidable. At the top of the range, requiring substantial sentences, perhaps of 2½ years imprisonment, were those cases involving large sums of money obtained, often by means of frequent changes of name or address or by other means.

Examples included R v Adams (1985) 7 Cr App R (S) 411.

Those offenders were in effect professional fraudsters, as was often apparent from their previous record. They had selected the welfare departments as an easy target for their depredations.

and had made a profitable business out of so defrauding the public.

The length of the custodial sentence would depend on the first instance on the scope of the fraud. Of course, as in all fraud cases, there might be a variety of mitigating circumstances and in particular a proper discount for a plea of guilty should always be given. Those cases bore little relation to the average offender in the area.

For the remainder, who formed the great majority of those appearing in the crown court, the sentence would depend on an almost infinite variety of factors, only some of which it was possible to forecast.

It might well be advisable, as a first precaution, for the court to inquire what steps the defendant proposed to take to recover their loss from the offender.

Counsel for the Crown should be equipped to assist the court on that aspect of the matter. Other aspects on which his help would often be required would emerge.

Other considerations which might affect the court's decision were:

1 a guilty plea;

2 the amount involved and the length of time which the defendant was alleged to have been engaged in the fraud;

3 the circumstances in which the offence began (Gray v James (1986) 7 Cr App R (S) 142);

4 the use to which the money was put (the provision of household necessities was more venial than spending the money on unnecessary luxuries);

5 previous convictions;

6 matters special to the offender, such as illness, disability, family difficulties, and so on;

7 any voluntary repayment of the amount stolen.

Before sentencing, the offender the court should consider the following questions were set out in R v Clarke (Linda) (1982) 1 WLR 1090, 1095:

1 Was a custodial sentence really necessary? The fraud cases dealt with in the crown

court were likely to be relatively serious and a non-custodial sentence might often be inappropriate.

2 If a custodial sentence was necessary, could the court make a community service order as an equivalent to imprisonment, or could it suspend the whole sentence? It seemed to their Lordships that a suspended sentence or, especially, a community service order might be an ideal form of punishment in many such cases.

3 If not, what was the shortest sentence the court could properly impose?

If immediate imprisonment was necessary, a short term up to about nine or 12 months would usually be sufficient in a contested case where the overpayment was less than, say, £10,000. A partly suspended sentence might well be appropriate where a short immediate sentence was insufficient.

So far as concerned compensation, their Lordships added that where no immediate custodial sentence was imposed and the amount of overpayment was below, say, £1,000 or thereabouts, a compensation order was often of value. That would usually only be the case when the defendant was a woman.

Counsel for the Crown had to be equipped with the relevant information to enable the court to come to a proper conclusion on that matter.

The element of deterrence should not play a large part in the sentencing of such a case in the crown court.

In making those suggestions - and their Lordships emphasised that they were only suggestions - they had tried to achieve some sort of parity with the proper sentences for other similar types of fraud, as exemplified by R v Davies (1985) 7 Cr App R (S) 142 (although those were not precisely comparable with the present cases) as well as incorporating what seemed to them the current trends in sentencing such cases in their Lordships' court.

Where they might appear to differ from such decisions they did so with respect to the court involved and in an endeavour to make the sentences easier for sentencing judges.

"What's wrong with English rugby?" That is the question which has been ringing in Don Rutherford's ears for the last 18 years, and never more loudly than after the loss to Wales in that miserable match at Cardiff.

Since 1969 Rutherford has been Technical Administrator of the English Rugby Football Union. It is a long time to have been responsible, with little obvious reward, for building the base of his country's rugby pyramid. And now the players of the pyramid have been badly damaged. England have seldom been in worse plight as they search for a team to play Scotland - a team which will be trying to win their first match, and score a first try, in this championship.

In 1976, when England were at another particularly low point, the Welsh coach of the day John Davies, said of Rutherford: "His belief in fair play and expression isn't getting through to the national team. I'm amazed that he has put up with it for so long." Eleven years on, he's still there. Moreover, he's working on new ideas in the promotion of rugby - modern ideas which appeal to a man who is in his 50th year but would have been unthinkable in the days when he was fullback for Fenny Park, Gloucester and England.

When you visit the RFU offices at Twickenham these days the first thing you see are posters advertising "New Image" rugby, a non-contact game played by "boys and girls, mums and dads..."

The colour posters show a very different world from the flailing fists of Cardiff. No wonder Rutherford says "I don't want you to come off the field and say to me, I wish to God we'd tried this..."

In other words, for heaven's sake recognize the opportunities that are there and give it a go.

"But of course it's unrealistic to expect players to do that in an international, in front of 60,000 spectators, if they're



Keeping watch: Don Rutherford, sees problems at club level

playing at variable levels over a long season without any well-defined structure - which almost all the countries we play do have. We are only now, in 1987, moving towards a League system."

There is also the question of philosophy. "I've always believed that rugby is a game which involves 15 people - there's infinite variety as to how they can be employed, but they should all be used. And all opportunities taken. Mike Davis, our most successful national coach, used to say 'I don't want you to come off the field and say to me, I wish to God we'd tried this...'"

In other words, for heaven's sake recognize the opportunities that are there and give it a go.

"But of course it's unrealistic to expect players to do that in an international, in front of 60,000 spectators, if they're

not doing it over the course of 40 matches for their club. The fact is that at club level it's incredibly difficult to get people to think beyond simply winning next Saturday's match. How do you get them to try and raise their sights and express themselves more fully? We can't force them to."

Again, he sees hope in the league system. "There's no guarantee that a league will produce wonderful free-flowing rugby, but I would hope it would encourage people to work on their game and study it much more carefully. Because at the end of the day there's two points in it and if you don't do well over the season you'll be demoted. On the evidence of leagues in the North-West and the Eastern Counties they produce a very healthy response all round."

Not so healthy for the game, admits Rutherford, is the use of video to prepare for matches. "Television allows your opponents to analyse your game microscopically. I've had players phoning up asking to be sent a particular match so as to 'get a look at my opponent at the lineout.' I suppose it's inevitable, it's human nature. But it does seem that teams are increasingly concentrating on how to stop the opposition rather than on being creative and constructive."

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In fact, the Technical Administrator of the RFU sees quite a future for women in rugby. "For a long time I've thought that women could bring a more mature approach to certain aspects of rugby. I'm fascinated by the idea of women referees. Can you imagine a woman having ref-erence to Wales v England? Maybe she would have diff-erent views on the situation completely. It's a fantasy at this point in time. But it's not impossible in the future. They could be the new teachers of the game as well as the referees, and generally be a very positive influence on rugby."

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## Mental health tribunal powers

Regina v Mental Health Review Tribunal, Ex parte Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Before Mr Justice Farquharson  
[Judgment March 13]

On an application to a mental health review tribunal under section 70 of the Mental Health Act 1983 for the absolute or conditional discharge of a patient detained under sections 37 and 41, the tribunal had no power pursuant to rule 16(1) of the Mental Health Review Tribunal Rules (SI 1983 No 942) to adjourn the proceedings for monitoring the patient's further progress.

Mr Justice Farquharson, so held in the Queen's Bench Division, granting applications for judicial review by the Secretary of State for the Home Department against the decision of the Northern Region Mental Health Review Tribunal on August 20, 1986 to adjourn for six months a reference to them by the Crozer, a patient detained under sections 37 and 41 of the 1983 Act at St Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough, and against the decision of the Nottingham Mental Health Tribunal on August 19, 1986 to adjourn for six months the hearing of a reference to them by

Bernard Alan Thomas, a patient detained at Rampton Hospital.

Mr Duncan Ouseley for the Secretary of State; Mr Nigel Plummer for the tribunal; Mr Oliver Thorold for the patients.

MR JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that Thomas had attacked a patient at the hospital and the tribunal adjourned the hearing of his reference because his conduct was such that his discharge might recur and because they considered it was premature to recommend his transfer to a less secure hospital.

The patient Crozer was responding to new treatment and the tribunal decided to adjourn his hearing to monitor his progress.

By section 70 of the 1983 Act a patient detained under sections 37 and 41 was entitled to apply to the tribunal for an absolute or conditional discharge from hospital after 12-month periods. The Secretary of State had power at any time to refer a restricted patient to the tribunal.

On a reference by a restricted patient, a tribunal was required by section 72 to discharge a patient either absolutely or conditionally when satisfied of the criteria in section 73.

Rule 16(1) of the 1983 Rules, made pursuant to section 78 of

the Act, provided that a tribunal might at any time adjourn a hearing for the purpose of obtaining further information or for such other purposes as it might think appropriate. Rule 16 was limited to what was necessary for a tribunal to exercise its functions as set out in section 73.

What the tribunal had to consider was the mental state of the patient at the time of the reference. It was not entitled to adjourn its hearing to consider the patient's state, altered or improved.

A tribunal could not adjourn a hearing in the hope that a projected course of treatment would eventually permit it to discharge the patient; unlike the Secretary of State, a tribunal had no power to supervise or monitor a patient's progress.

It followed that the tribunals had no power to adjourn to consider the patient's progress, to grant the adjustments and the applications for judicial review would be granted, and declarations made that the decisions of the tribunals were null and void and of no effect.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor (for the Secretary of State) and the tribunals; David J. P. Newman for the patients (for Crozer); Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield (for Thomas).

## No power to extend time-limit

Kilbb v Kilbb

Order 13, rule 4 of the County Court Rules 1981, under which the court had power to extend time for doing an act did not empower the court to extend the time limited for the payment of money by a divorced wife in compliance with a property adjustment order under section 25 of the Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Fox and Mr Justice Sheldon) so held on February 26 in allowing the husband's appeal against an order of Judge Rice at Southend County Court granting the extension of time sought by the wife.

MR JUSTICE SHELDON said that the rule was a procedural provision only, relating to a step in proceedings, but did not empower the court to vary a duly constituted property adjustment order.

Correction

In *Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council v Davis* (1986) 1 WLR 1090, 1095, March 21 leading column, for the employee was Mr John Melville Williams, QC.

## Scotland may rush selection

David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

If all went well in selection last night, Scotland will announce this morning both their team to play England for the Calcutta Cup at Twickenham on April 4 and their World Cup squad of 26, the first of the home countries to do so.

The Scots have stuck to their original World Cup schedule, unperturbed by the postponement of the Calcutta Cup match from January to April. "The quicker we can get the squad out the better," Robin Charters, convenor of the Scottish selectors, said yesterday.

The 26 players are drawn from Harlequins and eight from Wasps, among them four internationals in Rob Lezowski, Nick Stringer, Simon Smith and James Davies. Leicester's Peter Wayne Richardson is a tight-head prop for the John Player Special Cup semi-final against Wasps at Sudbury on Saturday. He re-

places Ray French from the side that beat Bristol in the quarter-finals but Colin Dexter remains on the wing because Rory Underwood is playing for the R.F.F.

Wasps are able to field their strongest side with the exception of Simon Smith, the wing, who has not yet recovered fully from a damaged ribs. Paul Randall, likely to be restored to the England front row today, indicated a recovery from torn calf muscles last weekend.

Bath, the cup holders, restore Barry Trevisan to their left wing at the expense of Peter Blackett, who played in the quarter-final against Moseley. Orrell, their hosts on Saturday, are confident that Steve Tobner, who left the field injured against Gloucester at the weekend, will be fit to play.

Middlesex, however, have already decided their party to tour Australia in May. Ten of their injured players are drawn from Harlequins and eight from Wasps, among them four internationals in Rob Lezowski, Nick Stringer, Simon Smith and James Davies. Leicester's Peter Wayne Richardson is a tight-head prop for the John Player Special Cup semi-final against Wasps at Sudbury on Saturday. He re-

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# Queen Mother goes before cameras to discuss her love of racing

## Charming chat for Biddlecombe

The mud of the Cotswold morning still clung to the shoes of Terry Biddlecombe as he stepped out of the Queen Mother's dressing room at Windsor Race Course. He had been up at dawn, feeding baby lambs, but by mid-day he was sitting with suit, tie and endless cigarettes, nervously viewing the result of his personal television coup.

Biddlecombe's part in the making of *Royal Champion*, Central Television's unique account of the Queen Mother's life in racing, cannot be overstated, although he is seldom seen or heard in the hour-long film. The bluff and burly Gloucestershire character, three-times champion National Hunt jockey, broke down the accepted barriers and persuaded the nation's best loved lady to speak on screen.

It was in the unglamorous surroundings of the lady jockeys' weigh-in room at Windsor Race Course that Biddlecombe conducted a 20-minute conversation with the Queen Mother. "I don't want to call it an interview," he insists. "You can't interview royalty, can you?" Well, no one else can as Clarence House grimly

pointed out to the eager production team. But "Biddlecombe" was the great lady's old favourite. Yes, he was different.

They go back to 1973, when this son of a farmer was chosen to end of his marvellous riding career. That winter, Biddlecombe rode seven winners for the Queen Mother and played her special chaser, Game Spirit, to third place in his final Cheltenham Gold Cup. It is, however, an embarrassing defeat he remembers most clearly.

"I was 20 lengths clear on a horse called Tammuz at Warwick when he fell at the last. Well, all right, I fell off him. It would have been my first winner for the Queen Mother and as I sat in the mud my words were inaudible."

One of Biddlecombe's biggest memories is riding a royal dote at Sandown Park but his enduring impression of the relationship is of the lady's manner. She was always the same whether she had won or lost. She would have a kind word for me and for the horse's lad and her knowledge of racing was quite incredible.

Plainly, this was not a one-sided fan club, for when Gary Newbon, Central's sports producer, made

his second attempt to persuade the Queen Mother's advisers that the film was timely — the first effort, five years ago, had been rapidly vetoed — the stipulation came back that only Biddlecombe would be permissible for the conversation on camera.

This presented no problem. Biddlecombe has been Central's racing correspondent for 11 years ("My tips are going very badly") and the concept of the film had partly been his in the first place. He recalls: "It came up over a few drinks. I was really disappointed when it didn't work at first."

An over-zealous director aborted the initial attempt so this time Central engaged a free lance, Gerry Harrison, who has enthused the Queen Mother despite an admitted handicap of knowing nothing about racing. "I have relied on Terry's knowledge and patience for so much," Harrison said yesterday. "He has even taught me how to read form."

The result is a documentary that is certain to charm the viewers when it is networked on the eve of the Grand National at next week. It shows the lady

following her passion, feeding carrots to her horses and bracing to examine their suspect legs, and it has an essential link provided by Biddlecombe's unique face-to-face talk. "I was nervous about it," he confesses. "But she approached our conversation with the same interest she gave the entire production. I was there for all the filming and I know she enjoyed it. Even in the snow during January she was volunteering for second and third takes."

So involved did the Queen Mother become that she delayed a hospital visit for treatment to her troublesome leg so that she could fit in another day with the crew she called "the gang". There is mention of the leg in the film as the former jockey, David Mould, cheekily asked her: "Have you had it plastered yet?"

For all that, however, and for all the delightful balustrade of Fulke Walwyn's travelling head lad, Tommy Turley, Biddlecombe is the background star of the production. "It's the most satisfying thing I have done since I stopped riding. I'm looking forward to everyone's reaction. If a bit apprehensively."

Alan Lee



Royal hand-out: Everett greets the Queen Mother with Terry Biddlecombe

### RACING

## York prizes set record at £1.2m

Total prize-money at York this year will amount to £1,500,000, an average of nearly £21,000 per day and an increase of almost 10 per cent on 1986. This includes over half a million pounds from York's sponsors, more than £400,000 from the Levee Board, and £25,000 from the European Breeders' Fund.

The principal sponsor is once again the Matchmaker Group, who are giving £300,000 towards the group one Yorkshire Oaks, and £10,000 to both the Mares Handicap and the Action Stakes, as well as sponsoring the group one Matchmaker International, for which the added money has been increased by £30,000 to £150,000 for 1987. All three races are run on the course's August meeting.

York will stage the richest all-female race in Europe, the £75,000 Lonsdale Ladies' International Challenge, which will be held on the Thursday of the May meeting. The group two Mecca-Dante Stakes, the highlight of the Wednesday programme and won last season by the subsequent Derby victor, Shahrastani, increased by £2,000 to £25,000.

Attendances at York in 1986 showed a six per cent increase over the previous year with a total of 214,668 admissions, beating the previous five-year record of 209,000 in 1981. Total turnover for the 15 days last year was almost £2 million.

There was welcome news on safety as it announced the removal of concrete posts has been completed. They have been replaced by plastic running rail round the track.

York will have a new manager-secretary and clerk of the course for the coming season, John L. Smith, presently clerk of the course at Newcastle, takes over from John Sanderson next month.

## Market leaders among the 44 left in Lincoln

There were 44 horses declared at the four-day stage for Saturday's William Hill Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster with all the leading contenders standing their ground.

Should the overnight declarations succeed 26 of the permitted number of runners, the lowest weighted horses will be eliminated until the safety figure is met. The declarations, with the latest riding arrangements, are:

K. Bannery (11), H. Bannery (12), H. Bannery (13), H. Bannery (14), H. Bannery (15), H. Bannery (16), H. Bannery (17), H. Bannery (18), H. Bannery (19), H. Bannery (20), H. Bannery (21), H. Bannery (22), H. Bannery (23), H. Bannery (24), H. Bannery (25), H. Bannery (26), H. Bannery (27), H. Bannery (28), H. Bannery (29), H. Bannery (30), H. Bannery (31), H. Bannery (32), H. Bannery (33), H. Bannery (34), H. Bannery (35), H. Bannery (36), H. Bannery (37), H. Bannery (38), H. Bannery (39), H. Bannery (40), H. Bannery (41), H. Bannery (42), H. Bannery (43), H. Bannery (44).

## Spearing looks to Flat season for improvement

John Spearing has suffered a disappointing National Hunt season but he hopes to start putting matters right when the Flat season begins tomorrow. After saddling the Sam Morshead-ridden Buckle Boy to win the EBF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier at Nottingham yesterday, his first success in several months, Spearing said: "This is only my eleventh winner, but I'm hoping for a change of fortune in the summer."

Risk A Bet, the winner of two hunter chases last season, made a fine start to the present campaign with a decisive fifth length win from Corked in the EBF Derwent Foxhunters Chase.

At Foulwell, Marella Line, trained by Martin Pipe, took full advantage of being favoured by the conditions of the Old Shindonians' Challenge Cup Novices' Hurdle and ridden by the accomplished Jonathan Lower, beat Good Lord by a distance.

### MOTOR CYCLING: TOBACCO INDUSTRY SPONSORSHIP MAY SOON DISAPPEAR

## Injured Spencer continues to cast a shadow over his rivals

By Michael Scott

Sunday's Japanese grand prix — the opening round of the 1987 world championship series — may pose more questions than it answers.

It all depends on Freddie Spencer. He was out of contention in 1986 with a wrist injury, but even in his absence his towering natural ability cast a shadow over the season.

He is due for a Napoleonic return at the Suzuka circuit, inland from Osaka, to prove whether his rivals have (as they claim) improved enough in his absence to challenge his hitherto quite convincing superiority.

But will Freddie ride? A fresh injury three weeks ago may eliminate him from the opening race, and his challengers may have to wait and see yet again whether the often-absent Spencer can still win at his best.

It may be a better race — and a better season — if he does not take part. The very fact that Sunday's opening round in the grand prix series is in Japan is a sign of good health in the sport, which machines last year's 10 European GP events, ending in October in South America.

There is the promise of closer

competition (save for Spencer) than in recent years. The Japanese factories have made the coveted and essential "twice-bikes" available to an unprecedented number of people, including five Britons, and at some races there will be more than 150 horsepower. V4 500s fighting for the top 10 points-scoring positions.

Americans dominate the championship positions, with Spencer, aged 23, from Sturtevant, Louisiana, favourite for his fourth title. His chief rival, Yamaha-mounted reigning champion Eddie Lawson, aged 29, may need the breathing space. Although the languid Californian claims to have developed his skill to rival Spencer, he has only once beaten him in a straight fight.

Two other Americans, Randy Mamola (aged 27, from California) and Mike Baldwin (aged 32, from Connecticut), this year, however, see a return in strength of British riders, with five of them riding world machines (see separate page). They line up alongside the determined Honda-nominees Australian Wayne Gardner, runner-up last year,

### Calendar

March 28: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
April 28: Spanish GP, Jerez (500 cc).  
May 16 and 17: West German GP, Hockenheim (500 cc).  
May 24: Italian GP, Monza (all cc).  
June 6 and 7: Austrian GP, Salzburgring (500 cc).  
June 14: Yugoslav GP, Rijeka (500 cc).  
June 27: Dutch TT, Assen (500 cc).  
July 5: Belgian GP, Spa-Francorchamps (500, 250, 125 and 50 cc).  
July 12: French GP, Le Mans (500, 250, 125 and 50 cc).  
August 2: British GP, Donington Park (500 cc).  
August 8 and 9: Swedish TT, Norbotten (500, 250, 125 and 50 cc).  
August 22: Czechoslovak GP, Brno (500 cc).  
September 12: Portuguese GP, Estoril (500, 250 and 80 cc).  
September 27: Brazilian GP, Rio de Janeiro (500 and 250 cc).  
October 4: Argentine GP, Buenos Aires (500 and 250 cc).  
October 18: San Marino GP, Imola (500 cc).  
November 1: United States GP, Phoenix (500 cc).  
November 15: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
November 22: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
November 29: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
December 6: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
December 13: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
December 20: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
December 27: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
January 3: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
January 10: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
January 17: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
January 24: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
January 31: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
February 7: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
February 14: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
February 21: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
February 28: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
March 6: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
March 13: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
March 20: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
March 27: Japanese GP, Suzuka (500 cc).  
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